Vol 15, Iss 43

the Link

April 11,1995

Final Issue

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Stephen Scheinberg, a Concordia professor and national vice-president of the Jewish human rights watchdog B'nai Brith Canada, sees HLI's religious identifications as highly inflammatory.

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AGENDA

The Agenda is a free service to publicize events of interest to the Concordia community. Priority is given to non-profit and student groups. Drop off your info at our office, room H-649 in the Hall building, or mail it, to *the Link*–Agenda. Deadlines are 4pm, Friday for Tuesday issues, and 4 pm Wednesday for Friday issues.

Tuesday, April 11

"James Luther Adams, His Life and Thought," workshops led by David Parker & Charles Eddis, both students of Adams. 7:30 pm, Unitarian Church, 3415 Simpson, Reid Room.

Wednesday, April 12

The Extreme Right, the Quebec Context and *Human Life International*, a public forum featuring Emmanuelle Proulx, Stephen Scheinberg, Afra Jalabi, Irene Demczuk and Anne St-Cerny. 7 pm, Frank Dawson Adams Auditorium, McGill University, 811 Sherbrooke West.

Wednesday, April 19

Say NO to the Far Right, Demonstrate against Human Life International. Let this anti-Jewish, anti-feminist, homophobic, anti-muslim group know they're not welcome in Montreal. 7:30 pm, Notre Dame Basilica (Metro Place d'Armes). Daycare available; reserve if possible. Info: 596-7094.

Thursday, April 20

Queer Demonstration against Human Life International: all raucous lesbians, gays, bisexuals and their friends and supporters should come out to fight HLI's right-wing, homophobic agenda. 6 pm, Radisson Hotel, 777 University (corner St-Antoine).

Stop the Dam Flights Benefit concert to support the Labrador Innu in their battle to stop low-level flights and the SM-3 Dam, featuring *Tshimun & Friends* from Nitassinan. 8 pm, Maison de la Culture Mondiale, 3812 St-Laurent. Info: 848-7585.

Sunday, April 23

Rock for Choice, the best way to drown out Human Life International and their anti-choice supporters featuring: *Wake, Mobiüs Strip, Emma Goldfish* and more. Bar Woodstock (St-Laurent at Pine). Info: 931-8731, ext. 1811.

Monday, April 24

Women of Words, poetry reading featuring Avis Anderson, Leah Libin, Georgina Souter, Martha Brooks, Helen Siourbas, Dana Bath and Megan Stanton. 8:30 pm, Bistro 4, 4040 St-Laurent.

Friday, April 28

A benefit presentation of David Fennario's *Joe Beef*, the History of Verdun/ Point St-Charles, to honour the 20th anniversary of Project P.A.L; an alternative resource in mental health. 2 pm, Amalgame, 3735 Wellington, Verdun. Please call to reserve: 767-4701. Continues to May 14.

WOMEN

Women Speak, a discussion and role-play group for all women. Monday evenings. Info: Dena, 848-7431

The Healing Circle, a discussion and support group for Women who are/ have been in abusive relationships with men. Wednesdays, 6:30-8:30 pm, Concordia Women's Centre. Information: 848-7431.

Lesbian and Bisexual Women's Coming Out/ Support Group (18 to 25 yrs). Meets every second Wednesday. Info: Project 10, 989-4585 (1 to 5 pm).

SOS Violence conjugale. 24 hour crisis intervention and shelter referral. 873-9010.

Mouvement contre le viol: 842-5040.

Montréal Assault Prevention Centre offers a self-defense course called ACTION for women. Techniques to help women deal with any type of aggression. Next course in English will be May 7th and 14th. To register call: 284-1212.

24 Hour Hotline & Crisis Line, Montreal Sexual Assault Centre, 934-4504.

Centre des femmes de Montréal: Services de première ligne, 842-4780; Service aux femmes immigrantes, 842-0814; Option'Elle, 842-6652; Formation'Elle, 842-4776.

Centre for AIDS Services for Women needs volunteers. Info: 989-7997, Basia.

Montreal Sexual Assault Centre provides free counselling and emotional support, medical assessment and treatment, information on police and court procedures, court accompaniment, support groups for survivors and public education on sexual assault issues. Info: 934-4504.

Volunteers Needed for Paranthèse, a unique playground for immigrant mothers & their children. Tuesday or Thursday 1-4:15 pm. Info: Cyndy, 934-0354, ext. 354.

Women's Spirituality: Irrepressible Spirit A series of videos and discussions exploring women's perspectives and experiences within various religious traditions. Tuesdays from 4:15-6 pm, Z-105. Info: Daryl Lynn Ross, 848-3585.

Big Gals & Goddesses, wanna talk? A discussion group for big women . Whether you wear dresses or overalls, nylons or not. Info: 848-7431.

continued on page 4

CLASSIFIED ADS

Rates: 20¢ per word for Concordia Arts & Science and Fine Arts undergraduate students; 25¢ per word for all others (plus applicable taxes). Deadlines are 4pm Friday for Tuesday issues, 4pm Wednesday for Friday issues. Classified advertising must be purchased in our offices in room H-649. Hours: Mon-Fri, 10am-5pm. Ads must be accompanied by full payment. We do NOT take classified ads by phone, fax, or mail.

TYPING

Success to all students! WordPerfect 5.1. Term papers, résumés, access forms, applications, editing of grammar, transcription of tapes. 24 years experience—both languages, 7 days a week. $1.75/double-spaced page. 2 streets away, Peel. Paulette or Roxanne, 288-9638, 288-0016.

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Typing, editing. Grammar, spelling, syntax. Sue: 257-0777.

WP/ Typing: $1.25-$1.65/page. LQ or Laser printer. Ville St-Laurent. 336-7142.

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B.Comm Accounting will do your income tax for a reasonable price. Oded, 737-8708. Free pick-up/delivery.

Small truck, small moves. $13/ hour. Efficient and experienced. Call Randall at 767-4579.

FOR SALE

S.A.S.U. T-shirts are now on sale! $10. Available at LB-671/5.

Absolutely fabulous Garage Sale!! Everything must go. Furniture, books, clothes, household goods and all the other flotsam and jetsam left after 5 years of a student's life in Montreal. Saturday & Sunday, April 15 & 16, 9 am-6 pm, 4564 Boyer (near Mont Royal).

Bicycle-10 speed, recently tuned. $100. Please call Carol at 484-6369.

Virtually new software system 7.1 and After Dark screen saver for Macs: call Randi at 735-8472.

FOR RENT

Lofts in Old Montreal, close to Metro Victoria. Heated, sprinklered, high ceilings, low rent. 861-3787.

Sublet, 4 1/2, furnished, hardwood floors. NDG. May to August. Possibility for lease. 369-2570.

Basement Apt. 3 1/2, fully-equipped, Metro Plamandon, free heat, electricity etc. $300/month. Tel: 524-3274.

Sublet 4 1/2, May to August, option to renew, downtown, Guy Metro, large rooms, bright, clean. $500/month. 934-1872.

May sublet (& share). 5 1/2. $283.00/ month. Female non-smoker. Call Liz @ 288-9393.

Sublet apartment. 5 1/2. five minutes to Loyola, $195/ month. Peter at 481-4180.

Sublet 6 1/2 downtown, furnished, $650/ month, $220/ single. 937-6008.

Beautiful 4 1/2 near Loyola. Equipped, fridge and stove, $395, 486-4077, 462-9370. Available immediately.

Recording studio, $8/ hr+technician, band or package deals available. Pag: 896-5218, Rod.

TO SHARE

Cheap Rent. Don't blow your $$ on high rent. 5 1/2 duplex. $250/month (all-inclusive). Larry 364-1968.

6 1/2 to share with one male roommate. Papineau & de Maisonneuve (Papineau Metro). $295/month includes rent, utilities, phone & washing machine. Available May 1st for 4 month sublet or permanently. Paul or Gordon @ 525-3735.

HELP WANTED

Summer jobs with International Health/ Nutrition Co. 856-4717.

Run your own business, gain valuable business experience while building your resumé. Earn up to $10,000 (25 jobs), high demand product, irrigation sales and installation. The ideal opportunity: vehicle required. Call Student Sprinklers at 1-800-265-7691.

Paid participation in hypnosis research. If you're interested, call the Concordia Hypnosis Lab at 848-2213. Monday - Friday, 12-2 pm.

Female models, actresses needed for a photo shoot. Professional pictures in exchange. 633-8605. Leave message.

WANTED

Interested in exploring the role of hypnosis in reports of UFO abduction experiences? Volunteer participants, willing to spend two hour-long sessions, are requested to contact our laboratory at 848-2213.

Female victims of sexual assault. If you have recently been sexually assaulted, are 18+ and would like to participate in a research project. Contact Danielle at 276-1677. Confidential.

LEISURE & RECREATION

New York Bed & Breakfast. $20 per person, Double occupancy. $12, dormitory of 4-6 persons. Just North of Central Park. Gisèle, 1-212-666-0559.

GENERAL

The West Island Organizational Group Rosicrucian Order A.M.O.R.C. is pleased to announce its next seminar entitled " Attaining Your Heart's Desire" will be presented Sunday, April 30th at our West Island premises. "Life After Life–Reincarnation and Karma" will be presented Saturday, June 3rd. Seating is limited. For further information please contact: 695-6336, 694-3864 or 685-4887.

LOST & FOUND

Lost: Dysan, double density, grey computer disk, hard. Where: MC Copy–Tuesday, March 28. If you found it, please return it, I'm desperate. 849-1690.

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Link staff meeting this Thursday at 4pm "Don't pass up the chance to participate in a staff meeting on a Thursday."

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Students "bury" education

by Danny Chan

Montreal university students held a mock funeral to mourn the death of accessible higher education in Canada.

Le Mouvement pour le Droit a l'Éducation marched downtown in a mock funeral procession last Friday to protest the federal government's proposed cutbacks to university funding.

"We are going to carry a coffin because we want to bury the right to education that has been shamelessly killed by Jean Chrétien, Lloyd Axworthy, and Paul Martin, the big three-headed dragon," said demonstrator Nathalie Bilodeau, a Concordia student and member of the education movement's executive.

Pierre Tadros, a UQAM communications student and a member of the movement's executive, headed the mock procession dressed as a priest. Pallbearers carried a "coffin" to symbolize the death of accessible postsecondary education. Several of the approximately 100 demonstrators carried black flags in mourning.

"Today, we are here to bury the right to education and accessibility to education," Tadros told the protestors. "For a postsecondary education, what does that mean? It means a cut of $250 million over a period of three to four years. But over four years, we've incurred an increase (in tuition fees) of 400 per cent."

In 1969, Premier Robert Bourasssa's government froze postsecondary fees to make higher education attainable for all Quebecers. But Education Minister Claude Ryan lifted the freeze in 1989 to bring provincial tuition costs in line with other provinces.

Last fall, the federal Liberals introduced their Green Book. It proposed to increase tuition costs to up to an estimated $8,000 per year for full-time postsecondary students. The proposal was vehemently rejected by students across Canada.

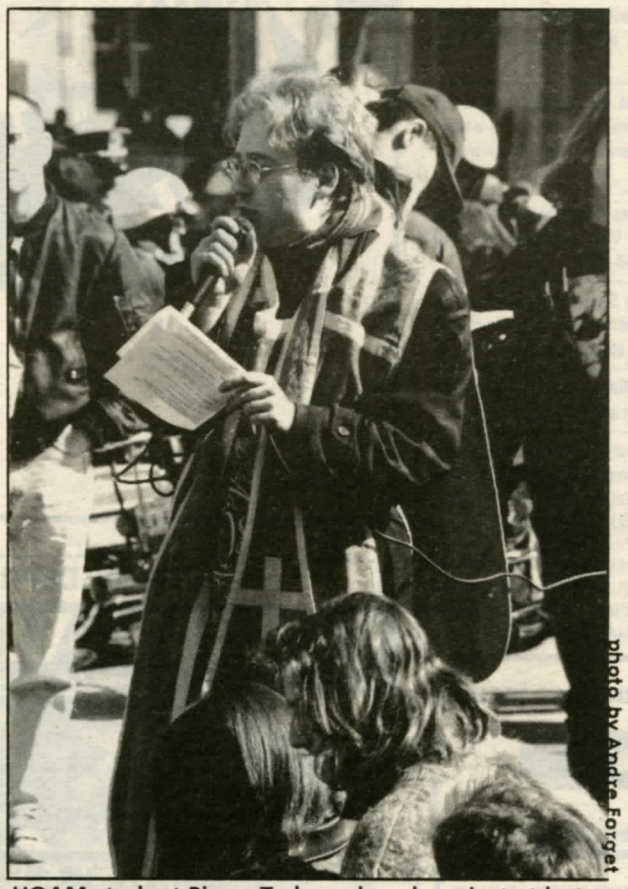

photo by Andre Forget

UQAM student Pierre Tadros played a priest at last Friday's mock funeral.

"For four years, five years, it's a 400 per cent increase in tuition fees that we have seen. We are in the midst of killing accessibility to education," Tadros said.

"In 1988, 20 per cent of the student population obtained loans and bursaries. Today in 1995, it's 50 per cent. And if this continues, this half would not be able to attend university. It's unacceptable."

Tadros said three years ago, the student population at UQAM was 45,000. Today, only 36,000 students remain. Rector Claude Corbo has stated that if the trend continues, only 5,000 students will remain at UQAM by the year 2000 despite an increasing demand for higher education among employers

"In the year 2000, two out of every three jobs will insist on postsecondary training," Tadros said.

The Liberal government's Green Book has been placed on the backburner but the Mouvement pour le Droit a l'Éducation vowed to be ready for the next round of proposed tuition increases.

Said Tadros, "In September, we promise you we will be back. Le Mouvement pour le Droit à l'Éducation is far from finished. Believe me, it's going very well. We have support from various student groups."

QPIRG & CUSA print in limbo

by Rob Bertrand

The fates of both CUSAprint and QPIRG are up in the air.

The two currently have offices at 2130 Mackay, which is leased by the university and given to the Concordia Students' Union. The university has decided not to continue renting the building. The lease will expire April 30.

QPIRG currently rents the space from the union for $1 per year nominal fee. This arrangement dates back to 1989.

In a memo dated April 5, VP (administration) Lana Grimes suggested looking into other options to keep the space. She wrote that Claude Bernier, the agent responsible for the lease, might be willing to unload the building in exchange for a tax receipt.

"Although the Student Union is not a charity," reads the memo. It is important to know that the owners are exploring many options, options which the Student Union should investigate profiting from." But despite the company's apparent flexibility, neither the administration nor the CSU has managed to complete a deal, meaning QPIRG and CUSAprint may soon be forced to move.

Under the current agreement, written notice of any changes or cancellations must be given in writing with at least 90 days notice. Thus far, neither have been given any official notice. Since the lease expires in three weeks, they have not been given the time period required to prepare for any changes. But no solutions have materialized.

QPIRG co-ordinator Nathalie St. Pierre is critical about the handling of the situation by the university and the student union. She has been given no information from either the CSU or the administration. She only learned of the problem through the landlord.

"No matter what," said St. Pierre, "the student union has to find us space."

To compound matters, St. Pierre was told by the building's owners that the university had arranged with them to pay $9 per square foot in rent, down from the current $12.75 and the initial asking price of $14.

As late as August 1994, Concordia was interested in renewing the lease. But the administration has since changed its mind about the space altogether.

In a memo dated March and signed by director of administration services Michael Di Grappa, the university stated that it would not renew the lease for "financial reasons." It furthers states that the CSU had expressed interest in acquiring the lease themselves.

St. Pierre has a meeting scheduled with Dean of Students Brian Counihan on Thursday, where she's hoping to get some answers. As things stand now, St. Pierre has no idea about what the status of her organization will soon be.

CUSAprint manager John Wells said that the student union has not been satisfied with his company for financial reasons. They have discussed getting larger facilities in order to expand operations and attract outside contracts and perhaps break even.

"They're in for a big shock (financially) if they take their contracts outside the university," said Wells.

Briefly...

Engineering accredited

Concordia's industrial engineering department has obtained an acceptable accreditation from the Canadian Engineers Accreditation Board.

The department was initially evaluated by the board in November 1993. They announced in June 1994 that the program was below standards for accreditation.

The accreditation board re-evaluated the industrial engineering department last February. They examined the department's changes, such as new labs and program changes, and interviewed students in the department.

The board's report is due for release in June, but they have already informed Donat Taddeo, dean of the engineering and computer science faculty, that the department has won accreditation.

"It went by positively," said Marlon Cambridge, a third-year industrial engineering student. "They saw our program was very good."

Had the department not won accreditation, graduates of the program may have had to write qualifying tests to perform certain tasks and register with professional orders.

The decision affects the approximately 50 students in the program. The old program required 118.5 credits to satisfy degree requirements, while the revised program requires 117.75. Full-time students still take five courses per term, and Cambridge said the workload is essentially similar.

—Danny Chan

Fewer new students to Ontario

Five per cent fewer students applied to Ontario universities for next year compared to this year. Only Nipissing University in North Bay and Queen's University in Kingston posted increases in applications. The decline in applicants for the 1995-96 academic year represents the largest decline in applications in 10 years. The Canadian Federation of Students, a student lobby group, blames the decrease on rising tuition fees. But Peter George, president of the Council of Ontario Universities, which links Ontario postsecondary administrations, says the decrease in applicants is because of a decrease in high school graduates and a growing economy. More students are entering the workforce instead of seeking higher education, George believes.

Same sex employee benefits

The University of Manitoba is considering extending employee benefits to same-sex couples, similar to ones already in place at McGill and several other Canadian universities. Some of the benefits under consideration include group life insurance, a dental plan and accidental death and dismemberment life insurance. The university's Finance and Administration committee considered the matter at a mid-March meeting and says it is in favor of the benefits, provided an accurate estimate of the cost is given. The university decided to look into the matter after it was suggested it may be discriminatory not to provide these benefits to same-sex couples. A university spokesman said there has been no vocal opposition to the benefits under consideration.

No voting-day coverage

Student council at the University of Western Ontario passed a motion restricting coverage of council candidates by campus media on voting day. The move follows an editorial by the university's student newspaper, The Gazette, in support of one of the candidates on the first day of voting in this year's elections. The president of the student council, who introduced the motion, said the paper was in a conflict of interest and that, by endorsing a particular candidate, the paper could inadvertently skew election results. The Link and the Concordian, which are independent of the Concordia Student Union, cannot be made subject to similar restrictions.

Professor returns to work

A professor at the University of Victoria who co-authored a report saying racism and sexism are prevalent in her department has returned to work after being suspended without pay for a week. Political science professor Somer Brodribb was suspended after she took two months sick leave on the advice of her doctor. Although she submitted a doctor's note to the university, the administration considered her doctor's diagnosis to be insufficient proof of her need for sick leave. After Brodribb refused to report to a doctor the university had arranged for her to see, she was suspended for a month without pay. Brodribb's supporters suggest she is being wrongly treated because of her controversal report, which said a "chilly climate" of sexual harassment was created for female students by male professors.

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continued from page 2

WOMEN

Committee Against Human Life International: Women interested in planning a protest against the Montreal conference of this racist, anti-Muslim, anti-semitic, homophobic, anti-choice organization can leave messages for the committee against Human Life International at the Concordia Women's Centre, 848-7431.

Montreal Sexual Assault Centre needs volunteers for its 24 hour telephone crisis line. Concerned, bilingual women should call 934-4504, 934-0354.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Self-Knowing & Communication, a three-part afternoon workshop series to explore self-understanding, giving and receiving feedback, conflict styles an communication skills (series started Feb. 10). For registration and Information, call Daryl Lynn Ross, 848-3585.

Counselling Workshops on career and educational planning. Also, private & confidential counselling for personal, educational & vocational concerns. Info: Counselling & Development, 848-3545/3555.

Questioning your sexual orientation? Coming Out support group for men, confidential and friendly atmosphere. Wednesdays, 7:30 pm, 2090 Mackay, Room 02. For information or individual support call the Peer Helper Centre, 848-2859.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Sign-language courses at the Montreal Deaf Community Centre. Fifteen-week long courses begin April 18. Placement tests are required. 65 de Castelnau. Info: TTY: 279-8535 or 1-800-855-0511.

Peer Helpers is a free, confidential listening service of students helping students. 2090 Mackay St. Info: 848-2859.

Sex and Spirit Collective a social justice group attempting to heal the divisions between our sexual and spiritual identities. Thursdays 4-6 pm, 2090 Mackay.

Parents Without Custody is a support group for separated or divorced parents without custody of their children. Call Nancy Montgomery,937-5351, local 48 to register.

"Living On My Own" a program for people planning to live on their own for the first time. Info: Bruce, Head & Hands: 481-0277 or 481-3643.

Sign up now for workshops on communication skills, career & life planning, building relationships, study skills, loss and grieving support groups etc. For information, call Counselling & Development, 848-3545/3555.

Writers, graphic artists, photographers, editors and rabble rousers wanted. The Link: It's not just a career; it's an adventure. 848-7405.

Start Keeping a Budget: Financial Aid & Awards offers personal budgeting information sessions on Mondays at 3 pm & Tuesdays at 11am. Please sign up in advance in the Financial Aid office LB -085.

Meditation: A Tool For Self-Knowledge. These sessions will draw upon various traditions and each will include a "quiet sitting". Wednesdays 12-1 pm, Annex Z. Info: Daryl Ross, 848-3585.

Prison Visit Program: An eight-week program , in which students visit inmates at Archambault Prison. Participants should call to speak with a chaplain before entering program, Peter Coté, 848-3586, Matti Terho, 848-3590

ACADEMIC

Free tutoring available to students who fail the University Writing test. Info: 848-2320.

Term Papers and written assignments? We can help you get started, organize ideas, identify problem areas. Counselling & Development: 848-3545.

HEALTH

Women and safer sex: A series of two-hour workshops to explore some of the issues that affect our choices about safer sex, including self-esteem, sexuality, and body image. Info: 848-7431.

Non-Nominal HIV Testing. The request for the test as well as the result are known only to your doctor. Info: Health Services, 848-3565, 848-3575.

Circumcision Info-Resource Centre provides information regarding non-religious circumcision & non-surgical foreskin restoration. Info: 848-9761.

GENERAL

Concordia Coalition Against Human Life International meets Thursdays at 3:30 in the Graduate Studies Lounge, 2030 Mackay.

Meals On Wheels Program is seeking volunteers to assist in preparing and delivering home cooked meals for seniors living independently at home. Info: Rona 937-9471, ext. 155.

Divers Cité, Montreal's annual lesbian & gay pride festival,which is taking pace August 2nd to 4th this summer, is producing a written programme to highlight this year's events. Anyone interested in contributing articles between 250 and 500 words should contact us at 285-4011.

Compeer Montreal, a community service which provides friendship and support to people with mental health problems, is recruiting volunteers 18 years or older to provide re-integration services to persons with mental illnesses. Info: 489-1007.

Tel-Aide needs volunteers to staff its telephone crisis line for people in distress. The line operates 24 hours a day, lending a sympathetic ear to Montrealers who are lonely, abused, out of work, emotionally scarred or suicidal. Info: 935-1105.

Outreach Experience: participants will work with children, teens, the poor or the sick. The activity and amount of time will depend on your interests and abilities. Information: Michelina Bertone SSA, 848-3591.

STUDENT CLUBS

Indigenous Peoples International, a native solidarity group on campus meets every Wednesday, 7 pm, P-203. Info: 848-7443.

Concordia Queer Collective holds weekly meetings on Fridays at 5:30 pm in P-102. Information: 848-7414.

Concordia Chemistry & Biochemistry Students Assoc. is back and invites students to take advantage of its many new services. 2020 Mackay,Rm. 306 or call 848-7417.

Latin American Students Organization invites all interested students to visit their offices. 2010 Mackay, Rm. 02. Info: 848-3532.

International Socialists Students' Association: If you'd like to become a member, or want information about meetings, actions, etc. Contact: 521-1983.

Concordia Outdoors Club's new office hours are Fridays between 1:30 pm and 3:30 pm.

Extra-rated Radio Show seeks spoken word/ poetry/ opinion submissions to read on air. Please drop them off at the station addressed to Rae. Information: 931-1880, 933-1418. No limits.

Ham Radio Meetings every Tuesday. Personal two-way radio, television, UHF/VHF, satellite and computer communications by ham radio. All Welcome. 7 to 9 pm, H-644-1. Info: 848-7421.

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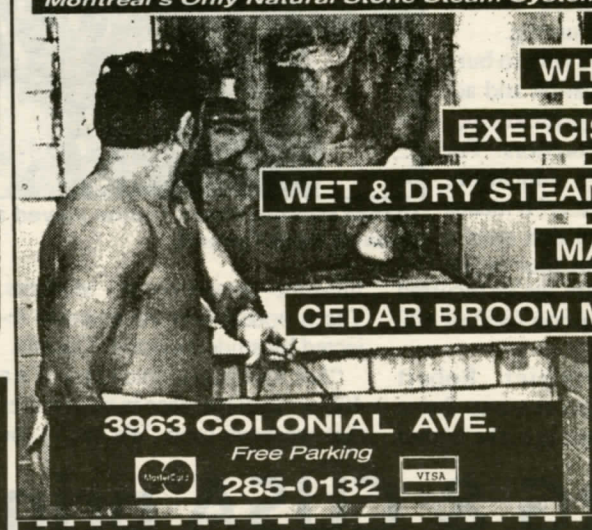
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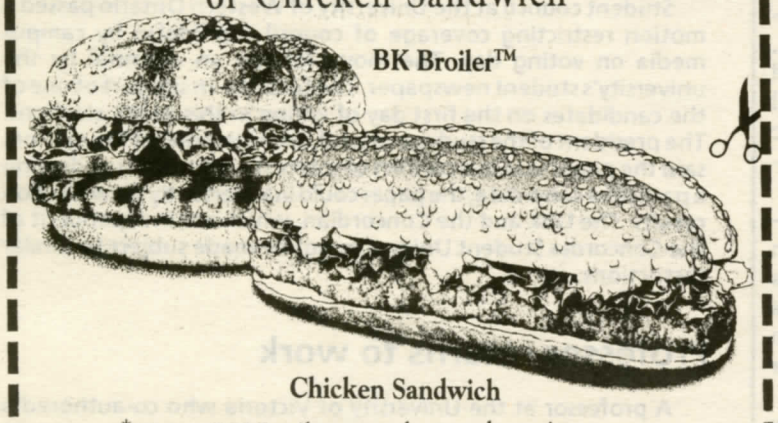

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APPLICATION DEADLINE: APRIL 21, 1995

Merger of women's groups draws fire

by Idella Sturino

Women's groups are outraged over the merging of two women's groups as a result of finance minister Paul Martin's budget cuts, eliminating an independent governmental adviser.

On March 14, Sheila Finestone, secretary of state on the status of women, announced the integration of the independent Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women (CACSW) with the government's Council for Status of Women, Canada (SWC).

The announcement, effective as of April 1, was made in Parliament in the spirit of finance minister Paul Martin's "fiscal restraint." The consolidation will translate into a loss of some 40 jobs at the CACSW and an end to its role as an independent advisor to the government.

For many, the act contributes to a loss of confidence in the government after its tide of recent cutbacks.

Women's groups, including the council itself, have expressed outrage and disbelief at the announcement of the cut. Letters from the provincial advisory councils on the status of women were among many received by the Ottawa office of the CACSW in the past few weeks.

The Québec Conseil du status de la femme wrote in a press release that the decision "sets women back twenty-five years" and "deprives Quebecers of the only public organization with a mandate to scrutinize and criticize the laws and programs under federal jurisdiction."

Women's groups seem to agree that a vital voice is being lost. According to a CACSW source, the merger represents a "a big loss to the country."

The CACSW was created in 1973 on the recommendation of the Royal Commission on the Status of Women. The report recognized the government's need for an independent advice-giving body to improve the legislative and social position of women.

Since then, the council's work has included research on violence against women, and pressing for improvements in divorce and criminal law. Recently, it made important contributions to criminal harassment legislation for women who are stalked.

graphic by James Mejia

Although the CACSW—the federal department responsible for integrating women's equality into all government initiatives—is funded by the SWC, it acts at an arms-length position from SWC. This allows the CACSW to conduct independent research and critical evaluation.

This kind of monitoring and critical assessment, say the critics of the consolidation, will not be possible under the new integrated body. The fact that it is an internal governmental department puts it at odds with its role as critical monitor.

Sources from within the CACSW say they "have always taken pride in being an arms-length organization and (the CACSW) is falling by the wayside."

Similarly, in a statement issued by the National Action Committee on the Status of Women (NAC), president Sunera Thobani says "it makes no sense to have government monitoring itself. It is like the proverbial fox guarding the hen house."

But Cathy McRae, a spokesperson from the SWC says that independent research will be preserved as a distinct role, and that only functions of communications and public information are being She says that one possibility will be to go to outside sources for research as a means of ensuring objectivity. However, the SWC, not an independent council, will be commissioning the research. The NAC is concerned as to whether researchers will have autonomy from the government.

Furthermore, say sources from the CACSW, while certain functions may be preserved, that does not mean staff will also be preserved.

Most of the 40 women in the Ottawa office and a few in Montreal were out of a job as of April 1, prompting the question of who will do their work. The SWC says their functions will be fulfilled. In fact, the SWC believes the consolidation will improve services by eliminating confusion.

An NAC source responded to this claim, saying it is "ludicrous to suggest the council with 40 staff can disappear without causing a ripple" in the fulfillment of the department's role as a promoter of women's equality.

Referring to the civil servant job cuts contained in Martin's budget, one CACSW staff noted that "those 45 000 have to come from somewhere."

But the question remains as to where those jobs will be cut. "The fiscal reality is such that all sectors are affected by the budget," said McRae. "There is less money around...so we consolidated to get rid of the overhead and duplication, trying to make every dollar count."

One NAC source says this explanation is not good enough. "Where is this duplication happening?" asked the source. "This ministry's constituency is half the population and they're nickeling and diming us about duplication?" She notes that eliminating the council is not an acceptable way to fix problems it may have.

The government will be saving $1 million by getting rid of the council, on which it spends $3 million annually.

The CACSW and the NAC believe the government will save relatively little money from the move, and will lose a lot. Sources from within the CACSW and NAC are suggesting the move has more to do with neo-conservative politics than economic logic, reflecting a shift away from the prioritizing of women's issues.

An NAC source, worried about the decision's implications, notes the government should not "use economic hard times to justify eliminating bodies which ensure equality...much of this has been done on the backs of women."

Part of McRae's justification for the decision is that other women's groups, such as the NAC, will be able to fulfill the role of critical watchdog. However, the NAC says it cannot fulfill this role to the extent the council did, adding it is "insulting to the women at the council to say that their roles can be easily picked up."

A press release issued March 16 by the CACSW stated: "Once the council is eliminated, there is no other group that will be able to step in and take place as an advisor on women's issues at the federal level, and as a public educator."

Adding insult to injury, some say, was the manner in which the announcement was made. Although rumors of the possible cuts had been circulating for a while, council staff were relieved when the actual budget contained nothing about the council—that is, until the sudden announcement.

"It was done very quickly," said Saloni Negi of the council. "It was announced on March 14 and then boom, we were gone."

She adds that while public servants are often the target of ridicule and easy to dismiss as replaceable and unnecessary, she doesn't know "of anyone around here who doesn't do more than pull her weight."

An NAC source wondered whether women are in for tough times. "Is this an indication of how Sheila Finestone and her Ministry think women should be treated?

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TASK FORCE ON RESIDENCES

The Associate Vice-Rector, Services (Student Life), Dr. Donald Boisvert, has established a Task Force on Residences to make recommendations on the future of residence facilities at Concordia University.

Chaired by the Dean of Students, Brian Counihan, the Task Force includes as members:

The University Treasurer — The Director of Residence
Physical Resources representative — Member of the Board of Governors
Three Students (two from residence, one at-large)

The mandate of the Task Force is to:

1. evaluate the importance of residences as a factor in attracting and retaining students;
2. assess the actual and potential future demand for residences on the part of new and returning students, by campus, at the graduate and undergraduate levels;
3. evaluate the direct and indirect costs to the University of providing residences;
4. study trends in residence accommodations at comparable urban universities;
5. review the role and mandate of residences in light of both the University's mission and the current financial context; and
6. review, evaluate and analyze other information it deems to be pertinent in arriving at its recommendations.

Final recommendations should be submitted to the Associate Vice-Rector, Services (Student Life) no later than October 31, 1995.

Input from the Concordia community is of great interest to the members of the Task Force. Written submissions can be mailed or handed in to:

Concordia UNIVERSITY

The Dean of Students Office
AD-121 (Loyola Campus)
H-653 (Sir George Williams Campus)

Any submissions received by the end of May can be considered by the Task Force.

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June 13

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The first will be held on May 2, at 10:30 a.m. in the J. W. McConnell Building's J.A. DeSève Cinema, on the Sir George Williams Campus. The second will be held the same day at 2:30 p.m. in the Russell Breen Senate Chamber, on the Loyola Campus. Each meeting will last one hour.

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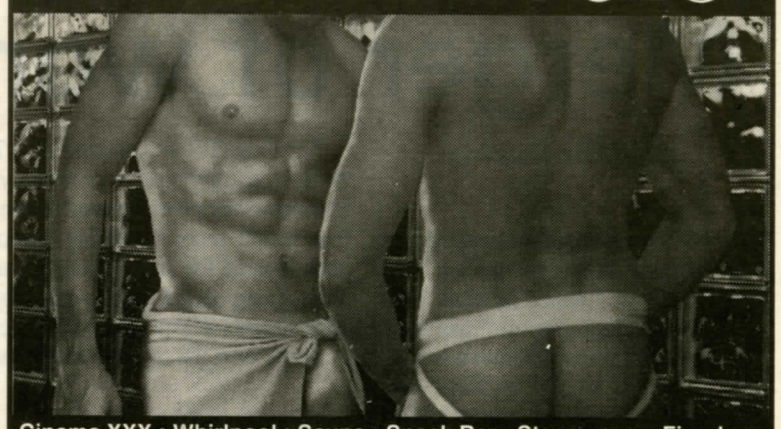

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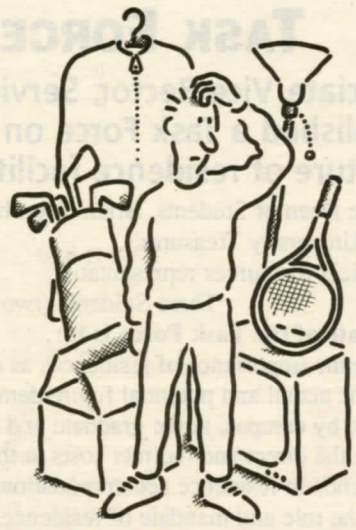

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GUATEMALA: SNAPSHOTS OF A STRUGGLE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

by Jennifer Ditchburn

GUATEMALA CITY— "Looks like they've plastered over the machine gun holes."

My grandfather, Juan Gerardo de la Cerda, is giving me a tour of Guatemala's National Palace. He's staring up at the elaborate façade, straining to see if there are any souvenirs of his days as a young and angry socialist left on the walls.

Behind us, in the enormous courtyard, hundreds of native plantation workers have gathered for a protest. These campesino activists, most of them part of an organization called CONIC (National Coalition of Indigenous Plantation Workers) are perhaps the most obvious remnant of Guatemala's brief brush with democracy in the late forties and early fifties. They're demanding what was promised to finca workers back when the country had some hope of shaking corruption.

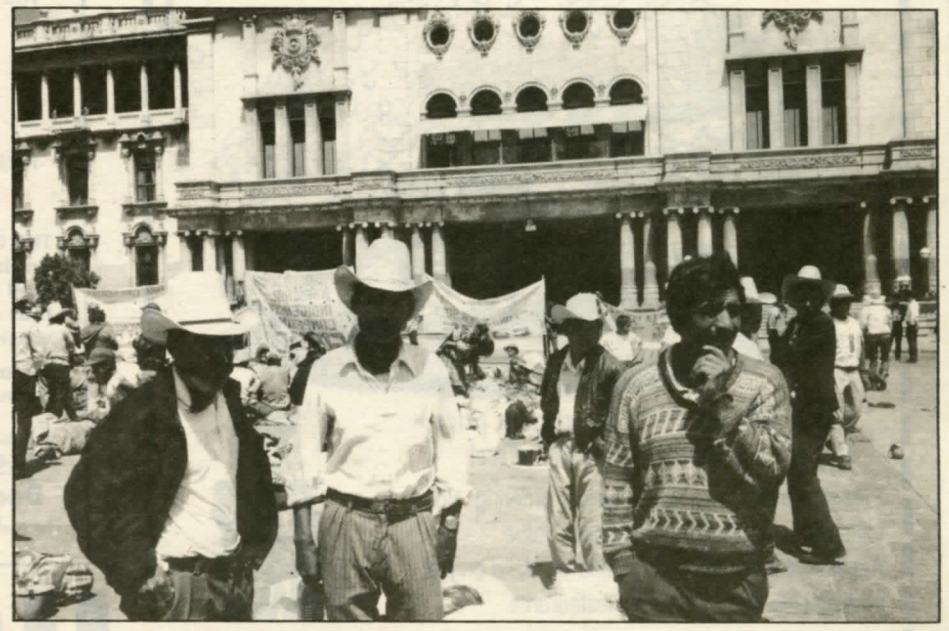
> *"This building was made with the blood of Guatemaltecos," my grandfather says to me as we walk through the ornate hallways of the palace.*

Following weeks of clashes between socialist students and the national police, Ubico was finally thrown out. My grandfather tells me of the few hundred fellow students who were killed outside the National Palace, screaming for Ubico to get the hell out.

When my grandmother's uncle, Juan José Arévalo, appeared on the political stage, he was a socialist darling and a menace to the country's old guard. He brought Guatemala out of the dark ages, instituting a public health program, labour law reform, a bureau of native affairs and a social security system. The American government watched in horror as their control over the country ebbed away.

My grandparents worked on Arévalo's campaign in the outlying regions of Guatemala. Arevalo espoused a new Latin American ideology which was burgeoning in places like Cuba, Chile and neighboring El Salvador.

"Not everybody liked who we supported," my grandfather tells me. In fact, Arévalo survived 25 coup attempts. "But Arévalo and Arbenz were the only honest presidents the country ever had. The rest are all the same. I'm not afraid to talk about these things now though, like other people. I'm too old—nobody would bother me," he says.



Claudia Gomez Lopez (middle) and his companions slept outside Guatemala's National Palace to protest the government's inaction on agrarian reform. They are plantation workers in the country's campesinos. If they say there's a finca for us, we'll go and work there for ourselves," says Claudio Gomez Lopez, a farmer who has travelled to the city from Quetzaltenango, in the highlands. "We want what was promised to us, and so far nobody is responding to our demands."

> *"We want what was promised to us, and so far nobody is responding to our demands."*

The crowd outside the palace is swelling in the heat and smog. Spread out on blankets, entire families have come out in what seems like a futile attempt to pressure the government. Over ten communities are represented, and they will stay here all night.

In the countryside, other campesinos have occupied 100 plantations. It's been four years since the government expropriated land from campesinos who were trying to farm on their own, and there's talk about stiffer jail terms for workers who strike on the plantations.

From down the street a procession of union workers and other supporters of the poor in Guatemala cry out from megaphones for human rights. But who's listening?

My grandfather sighs, and we both feel hot and nauseous.

"Not much changes," he says, and we walk back to the car.

"Stop violating our human rights, we want peace with social justice" the sign says, held by members of the National Coalition of Indigenous Plantation Workers.

During World War II, the country was yet again under the thumb of a self-absorbed dictator. Jorge Ubico, elected in 1931, continued the authoritarian regime entrenched by previous presidents. He eliminated things such as debt peonage, but the situation of the country's indigenous workers remained as it had been since the conquistators time—in quasi-slavery on the plantations.

Ubico threw out German coffee plantation owners, but was increasingly accomodating to the American companies, such as United Fruit.

"This building was made with the blood of Guatemaltecos," my grandfather says to me as we walk through the ornate hallways of the palace. Ubico nearly bankrupted the country by taxing Guatemalans, regardless of their income, in order to fund the construction of the new presidential residence. (Sort of like 18th and 19th century French kings.)

By 1944, Guatemala was ripe for insurrection. Students were revolting at the universities, and the indigenous finca workers were dealing with the unauthorized loss of their land to American businessmen.

After Arévalo came another socialist president, Jacobo Arbenz Guzman. His land reforms were even more expanisive that Arévalo's. He took back land owned by the American United Fruit Company, and planned to give it back to the peasants it was originally robbed from. Arbenz wanted land to go back to the individual indigenous farmer, instead of in the hands of wealthy plantation owners.

That's when the U.S. got scared. Operation Success was what they called it: the CIA forced Arbenz to step down and a puppet president was put in the National Palace. Guatemala's only real social and agrarian reforms were quashed in the name of anti-communism.

Forty years later, the indigenous farmers of Guatemala are still waiting for their land. United Fruit is gone, but in its place came Del Monte, and the other international food corporations.

"We just want to be able to have our own land. There's land for others, but never for

Members of Guatemala's few active unions joined the campesinos to protest continuing human rights abuses.

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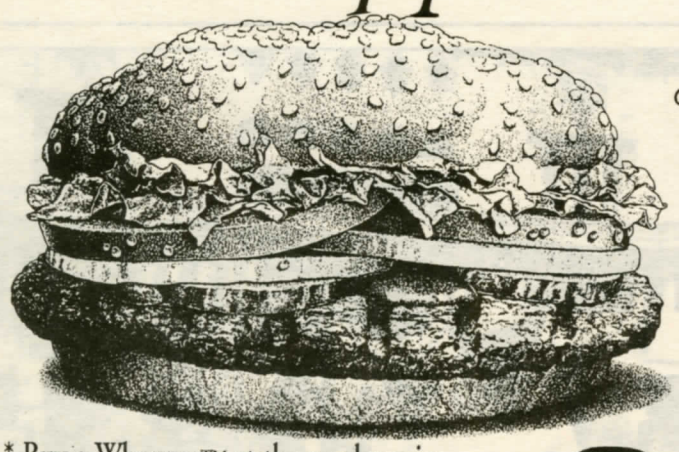

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Chinese seek redress

by Tanya Talaga

TORONTO (CUP) — Members of the Chinese Canadian community are taking a claim against the government of Canada to the United Nations Human Rights Commission.

The Chinese Canadian National Council (CCNC) announced March 21 that it will be seeking redress from the UN for the 4,000 Chinese immigrants who paid a 'head tax' to enter Canada between 1885 to 1923. The head tax ran as high as $500 per person, and began after the completion of the Canadian National Railway — when Chinese labourers were no longer required.

The council is also seeking an apology for the Chinese Immigration (known as Exclusion) Act, which prohibited Chinese immigration from 1923 to 1947.

The council has been negotiating unsuccessfully with the federal government over compensation for 11 years. March 21 was also the UN's International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

Fewer than half of the head tax payers are still alive, says CCNC president Alan Li — therefore the council must act now.

"[This was] a violation of international human rights," says Li. "Canada has refused to settle blatantly racist acts against its own people. The delay means over half of the head tax payers have passed away — but there are still thousands of widows and descendants."

Samantha Lam is one of those descendants. Lam's great-grandfather came to Canada in the late 1800s to help build the railway. His son had to pay $500 to come to Canada, leaving his wife behind.

"The Exclusion Act enacted then became impossible to reunite my family," says Lam. "My grandmother was separated from her husband for 30 years. [There were] years and years of families being torn apart."

For Lam's family, she says the legacy of racism has not allowed them to feel like full Canadian citizens.

"History feels real for the direct descendants," she said. "We're proud to be Canadian and I hope our government hears us."

Chinese immigrants were seen as undesirables, says Avvy Go, a member of the council.

"It was plain and simple racism," she says. "They were giving land grants to Europeans, and Asians were targets of racist immigration laws."

The council says it is disappointed with the federal government's — in particular Sheila Finestone's, secretary of state for the Minister of Multiculturalism — lack of response to their concerns.

"There are no excuses in Finestone's letter to the community saying there are no resources, so let's forget the past and go to the future," says Li.

All Canadian avenues have now been exhausted, says Sydney Poon, former council president.

"The government is turning a deaf ear to us. In 1988, the government gave redress to Japanese Canadians to the tune of $300 million. The government also apologized to the Italian Canadians. So why not the Chinese Canadians?

"What angers me most is what Finestone said to the media, that we were willing to pay the tax. But we were the only immigrants coming in besides the prostitutes. It's a disgrace," he said.

The Chinese Canadian community is seeking the $23 million that was collected as head tax between 1883 to 1923, says Poon, even though that money is worth $1.5 billion now.

The $975 new immigration fee that will be imposed on all immigrants to Canada, in the wake of the federal budget, is a frighteningly regressive tax, says Li.

"The new policies are now moving in the direction we dread. The government is laying down the ground for future injustices," he says. "Ultimately it's an erosion of basic immigrant rights as taxpayers in this country.

"It's ridiculous they're putting this tax on refugees, people coming from extreme hardship and depression. How can they pay?"

By not resolving the issue, the council says the Canadian government is breaching a number of international covenants, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Go says she is hoping the UN will be able to pressure Canada to settle this issue.

"We want the UN to come out and tell Canada they have moral and legal obligations [to settle]," she says.

Dateline Genocide:

Unfolding tragedies in Rwanda and Burundi

by Mickey Bhuiyan

Burundi is teetering on the brink of an ethnic holocaust on a similar scale to the massacre of 500,000 people in Rwanda last year.

Violent ethnic strife punctuates Rwanda's history. Large-scale massacres between the dominant military Tutsi and the majority Hutu have plagued the country since its succession from colonial rule in 1962.

Today, almost a year after the genocide of Tutsi by Hutu militiamen began in neighboring Rwanda, Burundi is in the nascent stages of its own genocide. However, in Burundi, the Tutsi military is playing the role of executioner.

The following series chronicles the ethnic violence from the beginning of last year's genocide in Rwanda to the recent rash of killings in Burundi.

•**April 6, 1994** An airplane carrying the Hutu presidents of Rwanda and Burundi is shot down, killing both leaders as they are returning from ethnic peace talks. The perpetrators of the twin killing have yet to be apprehended, but Hutu extremists are widely suspected.

•Over the next 100 days, the mainly Hutu Rwandan army and militia, using the murders of the presidents as a catalyst, begin carrying out one of the most horrific ethnic slaughters of this century. Over a half million Tutsi and moderate Hutus are systematically hacked, stabbed, and beaten to death as the international community watches in silent horror.

Human rights monitors, such as Human Rights Watch/ Africa, report that the genocide was planned, citing evidence of Hutu broadcasts, weeks in advance, fomenting violence against the Tutsi.

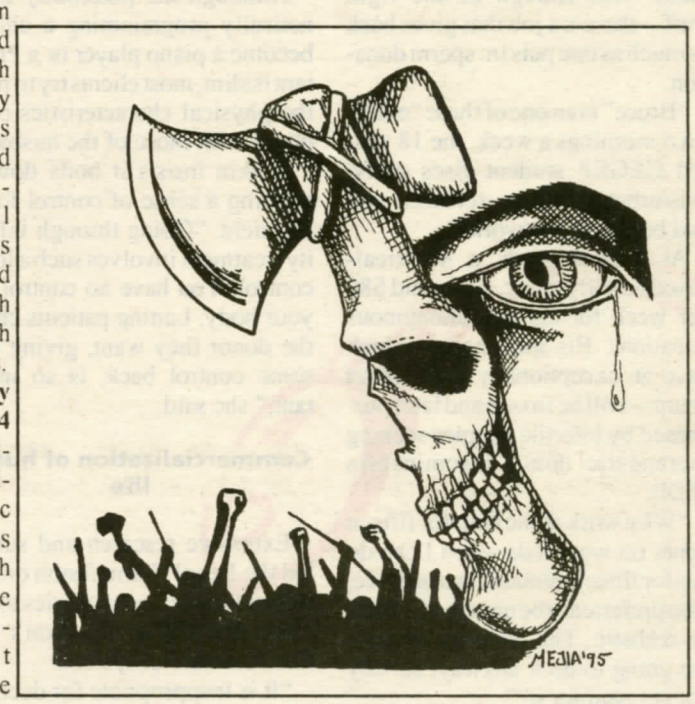
During this carnage, a quasi-civil war erupts in Rwanda between the Hutu Rwandan army and Tutsi rebels from the Rwandan Patriotic Front (FPR).

•**April 19, 1994** Approximately 250,000 Rwandans, mainly Tutsis, flee the civil war into Tanzania.

•**June 23, 1994** Tutsi rebel forces (FPR) make gains against the Hutu Rwandan army. France, which has long been sympathetic to the Hutus in Burundi, begins a humanitarian intervention. France sets up safe havens and security zones in different areas of Burundi.

•**July 4, 1994** The Tutsi rebel army captures Rwanda's capital city, Kigali. The retreating Hutu militiamen begin instilling fear into its own people by broadcasting that if the Hutus do not leave Burundi, the new Tutsi leaders will kill them in revenge killings. Also, if the Hutu civilians do not escape, they will be deemed traitors and be killed by the Hutu military force. The point of inciting a mass exodus is to leave the new Tutsi power with no people to govern.

•**July 14, 1994** The threats appear to have worked as an exodus of epic proportions ensues. In total, over 2 million refugees flood into neighboring Zaire, Tanzania, and Burundi. In Rwanda, ghost cities remain littered with body parts and mass-burial sites piled high with corpses.



graphic by James Mejia

•**July 19, 1994** A cholera epidemic sweeps through the make-shift refugee camps. With the absence of adequate food, clean water, proper sanitation facilities and medicine, and along with the clustering of people in already overflowing camps, tens of thousands of refugees die of disease.

•**August 21, 1994** France withdraws from Rwanda, leaving behind a country shattered and divided.

•**September 23, 1994** The United Nations High Commission for Refugees issues a warning to the new Tutsi government to stop threatening and killing returning refugees.

•**March 1995** Ethnic violence erupts anew in Burundi, where up to 100,000 people are estimated to have been killed after a 1993 coup attempt by the Tutsi army failed to usurp power from the newly elected Hutu government. However, the first democratically elected Hutu president was assassinated, triggering months of unrest and violence.

•**March 12, 1995** A leading Hutu official, the energy minister, is assassinated. Tensions begin to mount as violence becomes more frequent in the coming weeks.

•**March 26, 1995** Over 200 Hutu civilians are killed and 35,000 more flee to Zaire as gangs of Tutsi soldiers go on a rampage in Hutu neighborhoods. Journalists report that buildings, homes, and cars are set ablaze with firebombs. Also, bullet-ridden bodies are scattered in the streets of the Hutu districts.

•**March 29, 1995** Over 70,000 Rwandan refugees take flight from their camps in Burundi after gunmen in uniform kill 12 Rwandan refugees in a camp in northeast Burundi.

•**April 3, 1995** The Rwandan refugees begin trickling back to their camps in Burundi when their leaders are persuaded by UN officials that Tanzania, which has already absorbed 750,000 refugees, will not open its borders, and after receiving assurance that the Burundian army will protect them.

•**April 4, 1995** An estimated 400 Hutu civilians, mostly women and children, are massacred in northeast Burundi. They are reportedly slashed, shot and stoned to death by Tutsi militiamen, apparently in retaliation against the families of people they no longer trusted.

•**April 8, 1995** In Burundi's capital city, Bujumbura, Tutsi troops and militiamen surround and barricade Hutu neighborhoods. The rumors of massacres outside the city burgeons hostilities within Bujumbura.

•**April 10, 1995** Rwanda, under the watchful eyes of UN monitors, finally begins prosecuting the alleged masterminds of last year's genocide. So far 30,000 Hutus stand accused in overcrowded jails. And 1,500 fresh suspects are apprehended each week. There are rumblings of rebellion in the prisons among Hutus, who believe that the Tutsis will prosecute them on flimsy evidence. For the Tutsi of Rwanda, there will be no reconciliation without justice.

•**Today** The situation in Burundi remains potentially explosive as hostilities continue to mount and as no foreign intervention occurs. Many observers feel that the longer the violence is given free reign, the more likely that a mass-slaughter on the proportion of Rwanda becomes inevitable.

Who loves ya Baby?
the Link

Cashing in on the white gold rush

Sperm donors make money hand over fist

by Paul Hainsworth

It's tough finding a part-time job that is stimulating or offers much satisfaction. But for a certain elite—those with enough of the right stuff—there's a job that gives back as much as one puts in: sperm donation.

"Bruce" is an one of these "elite." Two mornings a week, the 18 year old CEGEP student rises early, masturbates into a sterilized cup and heads off to "work."

At Androbiotech, a Montreal-based fertility clinic, he is paid $80 per week for his two anonymous donations. His specimens—which have an exceptionally high sperm count—will be frozen and later purchased by infertile couples seeking therapeutic donor insemination (TDI).

"Why work at the Gap for fifteen hours on weekends when I can do this for fifteen minutes?" asks Bruce, who preferred to be unnamed. "Let's be realistic. The majority of guys are going to do it anyway, so why not get paid for it?"

But getting paid to "do it" is not a concept familiar to Canadians. Bruce is part of Canada's increasingly commercialized new reproductive technology (NRT) industry, which is becoming a mirror image of the market-driven U.S. NRT industry.

In 1993, the $28 million Royal Commission on New Reproductive Technologies frowned on the way the U.S. has commercialized these technologies.

Commercialization is leading to a transition in the industry, from government-funded clinics in hospitals to bottom-line, money-oriented private clinics.

U.S. sperm-pushers

Flipping through California Cryobank's mail-order donor catalogue is more like scanning the personal ads of a newspaper. One of the largest sperm banks in the U.S., it boasts over 250 donors, all of whom must be in excellent health with no history of genetic disorders or STDs. Furthermore, the Cryobank only accepts donors enrolled in or graduated from a university program.

Donor #450 is of German, Russian and Polish background, has blonde, straight hair, is 6'0", weighs 160 pounds, has a medium build and three years of college. But beyond these basic statistics, there is also a 20-plus page screening profile listing his favourite pets and music, talents, hobbies and SAT scores.

"Different items are very important to different customers and we need to give them that choice," said Ronda Wilken, director of public relations at the Cryobank. "I have clients for whom scholastics is most important in a donor, religion is most important, or the husband is a musician so the donor must have musical skills."

Although the possibility of genetically programming a child to become a piano player or a Protestant is slim, most clients try to match the physical characteristics of the donor with those of the husband.

Wilkin insists it boils down to creating a sense of control for the recipient. "Going through infertility treatment involves such a loss of control. You have no control over your body. Letting patients choose the donor they want, giving them some control back, is so important," she said.

Commercialization of human life

Extensive research and surveys led the Royal Commission on New Reproductive Technologies to conclude that Canadians didn't want this commercial system.

"It is inappropriate for decisions involving human reproduction to be determined by the profit motive," reads the report. "Introduction of the profit motive into the sphere of reproduction is degrading."

Canadian fertility clinics sidestep this by insisting that payment for sperm donation is merely "compensation for time and expenses."

But as competition between clinics increases, recruitment of scarce donors—who are less bountiful than clients—requires greater incentive. As U.S. clinics offer as much as $75 per donation, the concept of paying for expense, and not for human tissue, begins to sound more like rhetoric.

"I'm doing it for the money, and to help people," said Bruce. But he admits that without the financial incentive, he probably wouldn't be as regular a donor. He's using the cash to pay for his flight to Europe this summer.

Selling sperm isn't any different from selling other body tissues, says Dr. Jean Huntley, a professor teaching Reproductive Issues at Marianopolis CEGEP. "It's like I've got a spare kidney, so I'll put it up for grabs to the person who pays me the most for it," she said. "Canadians see this kind of commercialization as just a bit tacky."

Babies are big business

Tacky or not, new reproductive technologies are on the rise in the North America. Americans spent more than $2 billion last year on NRT's in their quest for a child. There were 30 fertility clinics in America in 1985; now there are more than 300, several of which are publicly traded corporations. Last year, between 50,000 and 60,000 babies were born in the U.S. using donor sperm. In Canada, the figure is somewhere between 1,500 and 6,000.

About 500,000 Canadians—10 to 15 per cent of the population—are infertile, according to the Canadian Fertility Society. In most cases, couples seek theraputic donor insemination because the husband has a low sperm count, or he has an STD which could be transferred to his spouse.

The clinics hold the promise of beautiful, bouncing babies, but the vast majority of couples—about three quarters—walk out of fertility clinics empty-handed.

Androbiotech charges about $150 per insemination, but with a success rate of about 10 per cent (about half the "natural" rate of conception), some patients will return again and again.

The Toronto-based ReproMed, the largest fertility clinic in the country, charges clients $550 for inseminations during each menstrual cycle. Others charge up to $3000.

Some couples say they've mortgaged their house to pay for repeat attempts at pregnancy.

Recruiting the right stuff

Most North American sperm banks and clinics recruit sperm donors by advertising in university newspapers. Although many will try out, few will be accepted.

At ReproMed, of 100 potential donors who answer the ads, only 20 will be called in for an interview, and only ten of these are accepted into the program, according to president Dr. Alfonso Del Valle. Most clinics only accept between 7 to 10 per cent of wanna-be donors; the screening process leaves only the cream of the crop.

Androbiotech requires donors to have a sperm count of at least 100 million sperm per sample. The average male has about 60 million. Bruce, a sort of Superman of the sperm world, has a count of 240 million.

First time donors go through a blood test, semen test, and answer a questionnaire regarding their genetic and sexual history. Those with a family history of heart problems, and diseases like Tay Sachs which are genetically transferred, are cut.

No queers, please

Some argue that profit, not health safety, is the reason why gay and bisexual men are automatically screened out in accordance to Canadian Fertility Society (CFS) guidelines.

Clinics say that all "high risk groups" for HIV like queers and IV drug users must be excluded due to the high risk of STD transmission through TDI.

"We can't take a chance," said Louise Raymond, sperm bank coordinator at Androbiotech. "The Red Cross asks you the same thing, to know if you're in a high risk group."

Like most clinics, Androbiotech freezes all sperm and tests donors every three months over the course of a year to see if HIV develops.

"With AIDS, the risk is very, very, very low with all the tests we make," said Raymond.

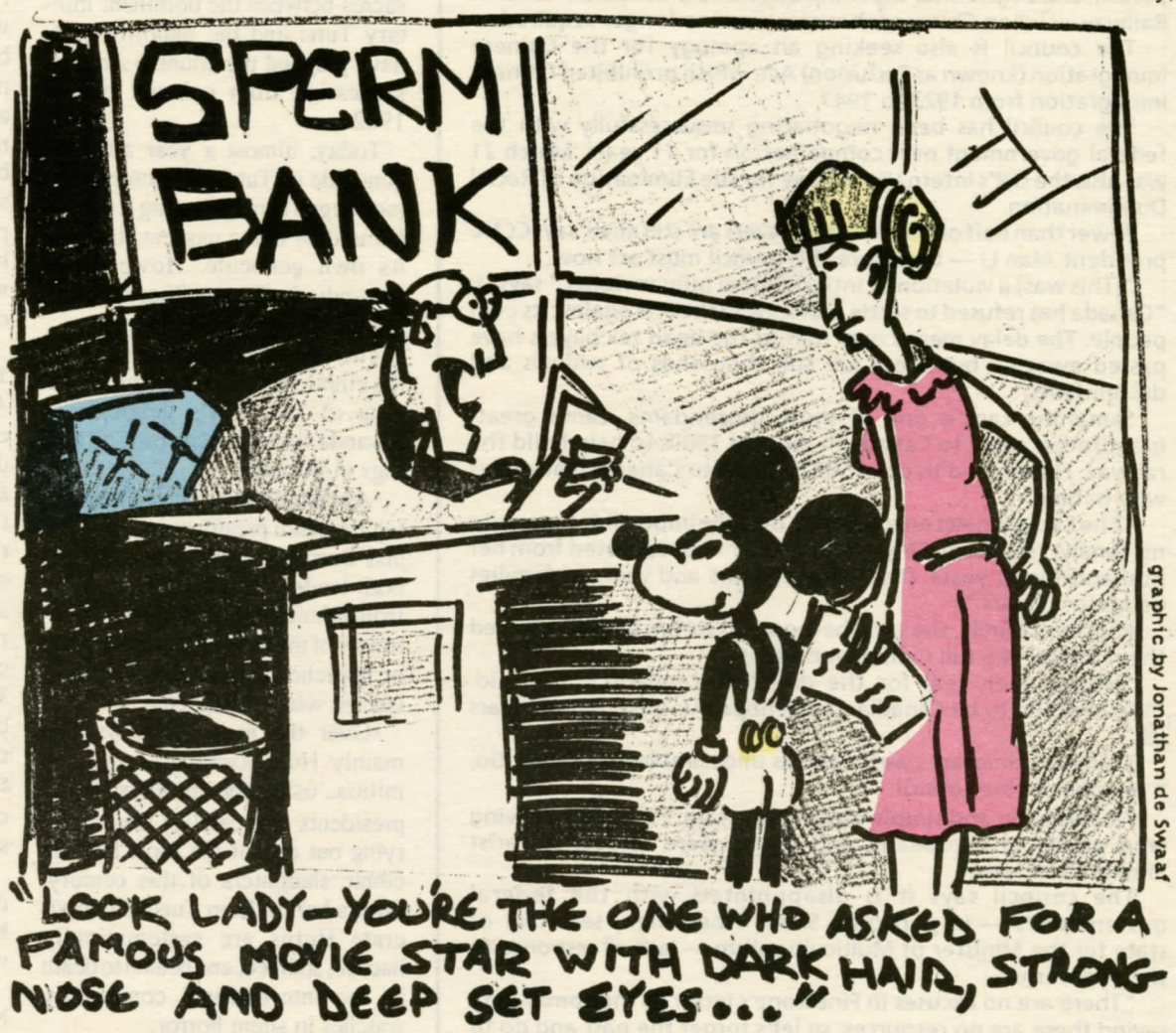
So with all the precautions and no cases in Canada of HIV transmission to clients under these procedures, why the need to discriminate?

"A private sperm bank isn't going to risk losing money," said James Edwards, a gay activist at Concordia.

But as critics point out, excluding donors on the basis of sexual orientation—and not high risk behaviour—is dangerous because it perpetuates the myth that AIDS is a "gay disease," and that heterosexuals are not at risk of getting AIDS.

Some say the reason for excluding gay and bisexual donors is just good business. By accepting queers, clinics would be spending money on testing a candidate who has a statistically higher probability of being disqualified because he has HIV.

"It might not be so appropriate for them to say, 'look, our bottom line is money,'" said Bruce. "Would you want to go to a medical institution where the botton line is cash?"



graphic by Jonathan de Swaaf

Pretty white hate machine

Is Human Life International a radical hate group?

by Paul Hainsworth

Emily Paradis laughs as she recounts how members of the Montreal-wide coalition against Human Life International refer to HLI's upcoming conference here. "They're travelling at the speed of Satan towards Montreal at 666,666 miles per second."

The coalition of women, pro-choice, Jewish and queer activists have roundly condemned Human Life International as racist, anti-woman, anti-feminist, anti-semitic and anti-queer.

HLI is the radical U.S. Christian Right whose spiteful rhetoric incites hate crimes against everyone except "white Christian mothers," argues the coalition.

Who is HLI?

Radical Christian Right? Not according to HLI president Father Matthew Habiger. "In our view, that's distorted," he said. "Is defending babies radical? We've become a voice for Canadian babies."

But HLI's "family values" platform includes much more than abortion. It calls for an end to contraception, abortion, pornography, sex education and defines homosexuality as "destructive" and "unnatural."

Nevertheless, HLI is most widely known for their anti-abortion stance. One of its most successful fundraising techniques involves sending members an extremely graphic photo of a bloody, aborted fetus and then asking for money to help sway public opinion to the anti-abortion camp. HLI's $4.7 million budget is derived mainly from member donations.

This same photograph was found in the home of John Salvi III, a former Montreal resident, charged with murder and attempted murder of two aborion clinic workers in Boston last December.

HLI has issued a statement saying Salvi is not on any donor or membership lists.

The Maryland-based HLI was founded with the approval of the Vatican in 1981 by Father Paul Marx, a Catholic priest. The organization is rapidly expanding, now operating 49 branch offices in 38 countries on six continents.

Human Life International's international conference in Montreal from April 19 to 23 is expected to draw about 1,500 participants from all over the world.

Saving babies through anti-semitism?

Human Life International may be the largest anti-abortion group in the world, but it's not neither the first nor the most radical. But activists argue that HLI members and supporters make fire-and-brimstone statements that unnecessarily incite violent hatred towards Jews.

In his book *Confessions of a Pro-life Missionary*, Marx seems almost obsessed with making a connection between the Jewish community and the abortion movement.

"Notice how many Jews led the infamous 1971 abortion-planning meeting in Los Angeles, which I exposed...note the large number of abortionists (consult the Yellow Pages) and pro-abortion medical professors who are Jewish."

Another oft-quoted line from his book says, "a segment of the Jewish community...more or less led the greatest holocaust of all time, the war on unborn babies."

Stephen Scheinberg, a Concordia professor and national vice-president of the Jewish human rights watchdog B'nai Brith Canada, sees HLI's religious identifications as highly inflammatory.

"I think if you're going to call a group murderers and perpetrators of a Holocaust, its unnecessary to make religious and ethnic identifications. There are codes in this matter of identifying races in criminal acts.

"To me, after the shooting of a Jewish doctor in Vancouver, this kind of talk becomes incitement."

John Garrison, a spokesperson for HLI's Canadian headquarters in Ottawa, insists there is no incitement in HLI's words. "It is to give the Jewish community a 'head up,'" he said. "I don't see it will fuel any hatred."

But in the 19th century, Jews were accused of murdering Christian children to bake their blood in the Passover Matzo, according to Scheinberg. "So accusations that Jews are responsible for the death of Christian children is odious to hear when other priests in other eras made the same statements," he said.

One Christian World

Scheinberg argues that abortion is but one of HLI's issues. "They try to appeal to the magic of the word 'family.' They use it in a certain context to talk about an ideal 19th century patriarchal family."

Speaking at an HLI conference workshop last year, ex-Green Beret Brian Clowes said, "Our job is to take over the world as Christians...that's our mission. We can't be apologetic...it is truly a fight to the finish. Not a shooting war, a spiritual war."

At the same conference was Randall Terry, leader of the U.S. radical anti-abortion group Operation Rescue. He called for the crowd to rise up and turn America into a "Christian Nation" under "Biblical Law," with "dads [the] Godly leaders," of the family, and "the women in submission, raising kids for the glory of God."

Terry is being released from house arrest on the night he will speak at the Montreal conference.

Anti-woman and anti-queer?

Paradis of the Montreal-wide coalition and the head co-ordinator of Concordia Women's Centre, says HLI is anti-woman because it is against abortion, contraception, and sex education. "It promotes an agenda which seeks to take away a woman's control and right to decide what happens to our own bodies," she said.

HLI material makes clear its stand on contraception. "Acceptance of contraception has led to widespread sexual promiscuity and an ever-increasing explosion of crippling and deadly venereal diseases, including AIDS. Contraception always leads to abortion, and to increased abortion rates."

Garrison explained that HLI is against sex education because "at an early age it interferes with the latency period of children in which they have no sexual conscience."

He added that this early exposure leads to almost obsessive sexual behaviour. "It becomes almost their primary raison d'etre for living."

Homosexuality is one of HLI's favourite issues. Their literature defines homosexuality as "deviant behaviour that is socially and personally destructive and which should not be condoned or supported."

Garrison of HLI says the organization takes its lead from the Church on the issue of homosexuality.

graphic by James Mejia

> ***"They make hatred somehow noble, connected to God's cause,"***

One of the seminars at the upcoming conference called "Homosexuality: the Courage to Change," is given by Father John Harvey, who run a New York clinic that "converts" queers to heterosexuality.

"We merely feel it's unnatural, and can be overcome," said Garrison, suggesting that homosexuality is based on choice.

Accusations of racism

Another seminar scheduled for the conference is called "the Moslem (sic) threat to the World." The seminar focuses on how Caucasians are having children at lesser rate as Muslims.

Paradis argues these kinds of sentiments play on people's ingrained stereotypes and prejudices.

"How many non-Muslim people secretly think Muslims plan to take over the world? They've been demonized in all sorts of ways in the media. This invokes a whole body of learning that already resides in people's mind."

She points to the ongoing controversy of Muslim women wearing hijab in school. This is irresponsible in Quebec, "where people say for a young woman to wear hijab implies some sort of threat.

HLI takes these prejudices and twists them around, according to Paradis. "They make hatred somehow noble, connected to God's cause,"she said.

She says the dangerous element of HLI is that it first attracts people on its anti-abortion stand, and converts them to its larger agenda. "Think about the number of people personally against abortion who get sucked in and become more anti-semitic, more homophobic and anti-feminist. It makes you think groups like HLI might use the abortion cause as a broad base for its right-wing agendas."

Towards a united protest

The Montreal-wide coalition would seem to be a convergence of distinct unrelated groups. But Paradis disagrees. "I think that a separation of the issues is bogus," she said. "It's important to understand HLI's politics as pieces emerging from a single agenda to increase the power of a straight, white and fundamentalist Christian elite that's feeling its power being reduced in America."

> ***"It's important to understand HLI's politics as pieces emerging from a single agenda to increase the power of a straight, white and fundamentalist Christian elite that's feeling its power being reduced in America."***

Summer in the city

Link summer issue: June 13

compiled by Ingrid Hein

Hot Summer

Link file photo

Link file photo

April-May

EARTH DAY

CONCORDIA
(film) May 3-

OPEN HOU

FRINGE FE

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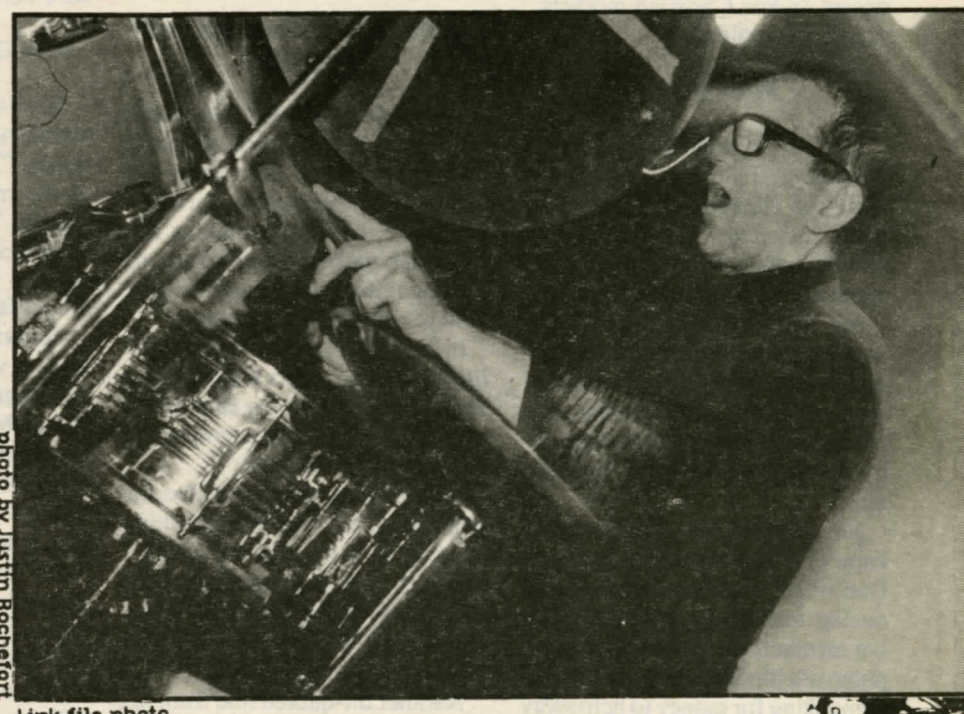
photo by Martin Chamberland

photo by Justin Rochefort



Link file photo

photo by Hanna Volicek

July-August

CARIFÊTE: July 1st. The parade starts at Jeanne-Meance park and heads into the city.

MOVING DAY: July 1st. (Try to find a cheap, sunny place!)

COMEDY FEST: JULY 19-30. A Montréal attraction every year.

DANCE IN THE PARC: July 26-31. Les Grands Ballets has performances in Parc Lafontaine.

WORLD FILM FESTIVAL: August 24-Sept. 4. All the local theatres have world renowned films showing from early in the morning right into the evening.

DIVERS/CITÉ: August 2-4. Films, parties, fund-raisers, music, in the name of gay pride.

PRIDE PARADE on August 6.

in Montreal

-June

Y: April 22. Pick up garbage, plant a tree!

A CINEMA STUDENTS YEAR-END SCREENINGS:
-6 (animation) May 11.

SE OF MUSEUMS: May 28. A day of free admission to museums in Montréal.

STIVAL: June 10-18. Theatre, music, beer tents, mostly on the Main.

BAPTISTE: June 1st. A big party celebrating Québec: just take to the streets!

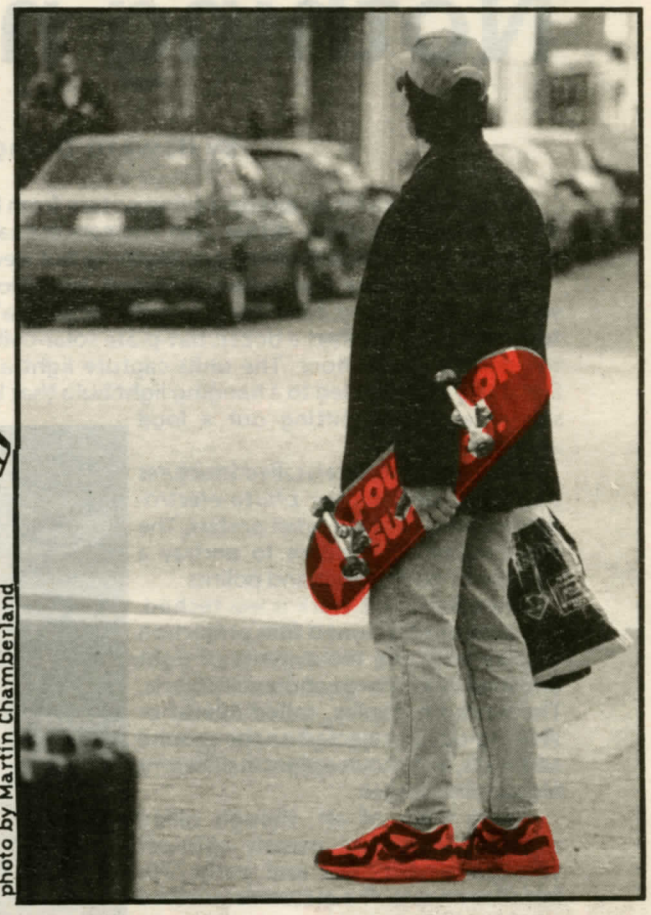


photo by Martin Chamberland

DONT FORGET!!!

TOUR DE L'ILE: a big day of biking around the island of Montréal.

TAM TAM JAM: every Sunday on the side of the mountain in Jeanne-Meance Parc. Keep close watch for the cops while you listen to ambient drums, drink beer, and smoke drugs.

SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK: Happening in almost every park around the island. Watch for it!

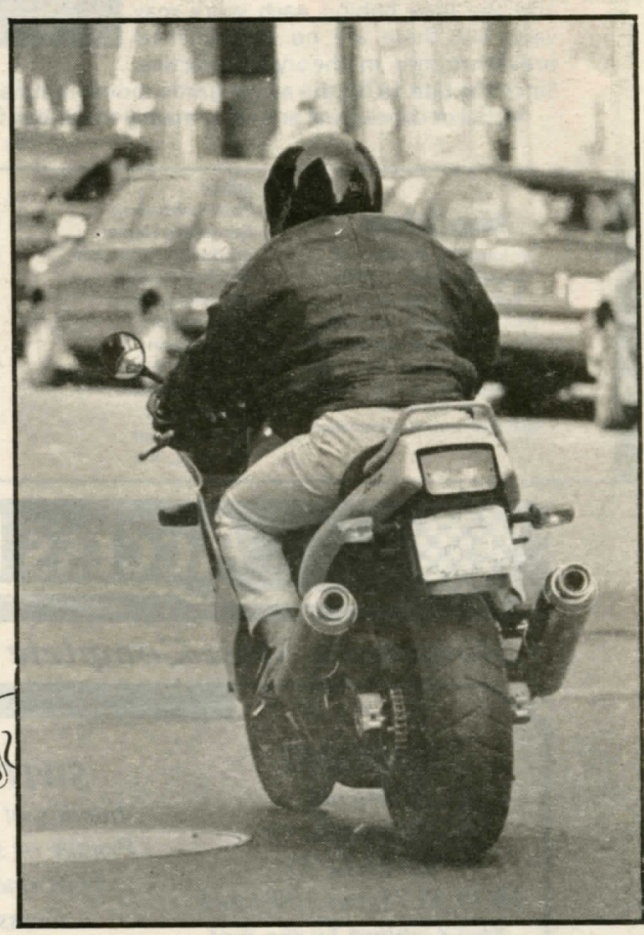
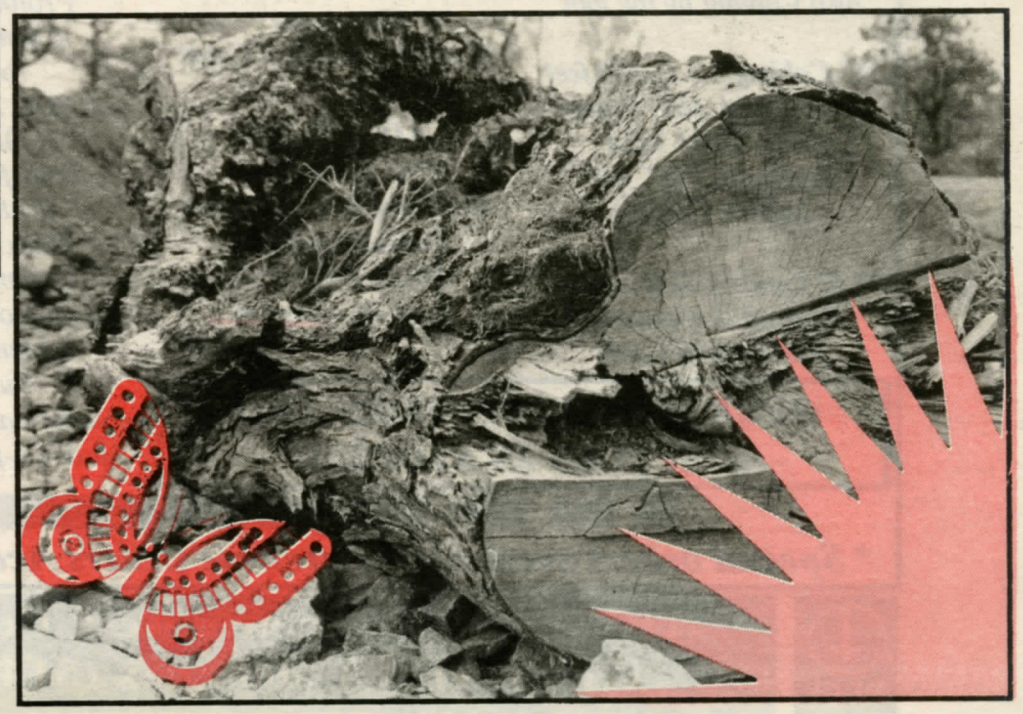


photo by Martin Chamberland

photo by Martin Chamberla



MAKE SURE YOU SPEND AMPLE TIME LETTING THE DAY FADE AWAY ON A ST-DENIS TERRASSE DRINKING A LOCAL BREW AND DREAMING OF TOMORROW'S ADVENTURES IN YOUR HOT SUMMER IN MONTRÉAL.

Nothing new at Optica Gallery

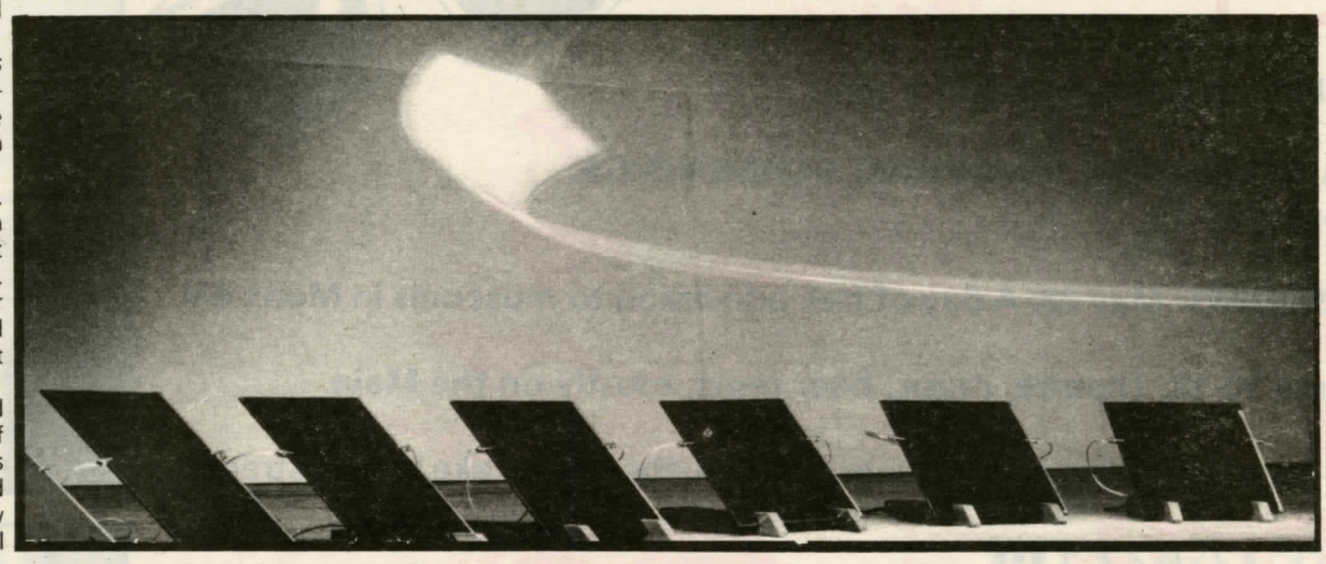
By Howard Zhang

Some might call it an energy saving system from Hydro Quebec, other's may say it's a cheap light show, either way the conceptual installations currently being shown at the **Optica Gallery** are anything but new.

Robert Saucier and **Josee Bernard**, two Montreal artists displaying their works at the gallery, have tried to instill new idea's into this 1960s outdated art form. Saucier's displays a dozen flat-plate solar-collector units sitting in a circle in the middle of the floor. The units capture light and generate electric currents. Electricity is channeled to a hanging light bulb that keeps spinning to a 1930s radio set, occasionally spitting out a loud annoying buzz.

Saucier's latest piece is called *Structures porteuses de systeme photo-electro-mecaniques*, or as the artist prefers, The *Sun Catcher*. It's suppose to portray a mixture of both humor and politics

Josee Bernard's work is less techno. She uses old-fashioned film projection to play with the movements of light and shadows on large and small objects. The work on display, called *Reveal* or *Waking-up*, is projected on the ground and walls, and shows a plant in different blossoming stages.



These types of art, though called contemporary, are merely spin-off versions of the '60s and early '70s installation arts. The materials involved and the idea behind each work may vary, but there are no fundamental breakthroughs in theory or practice. Since the late 1970s the avant-garde movement has actually run into a cul-de-sac.

Visual or conceptual arts refer mainly to various forms of installations, placed by artists in space and time; they created visual impressions, or transmit intangible ideas.

Following contemporary philosophy, everyone is a master installationist. or everything you do happens within the time-space continuum. Everything you do, consciously or otherwise, involves concrete materials, moving and placing something somewhere. And the conceptual part is whatever you decide you want it to be.

But an idea can only be new once. Too much repetition of the same gadgets abuses the revolutionary intentions of the first generation installationists.

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when the world gets you down and you have to scream out as the liberal up-bringing you received begins to resurface on your conscious reality and you realize what you've done and you think there's no turning back and you can't look in the mirror because of the beast you've become you discover there is one source of forgiveness, one source of penance
t h e L i n k
H - 6 4 9

Dummies hit the MaiN

By David King

Dummies, dummies, and more dummies. Walking up the Main towards Mont Royal, the windows of the vacated Fox Shoes' store seems to be filled with them. But at eight o'clock, the sounds of two real-life mannequins blaze over the heavy flow of traffic, calling everyone into the store for a free evening of theatre.

Sound like a trap? It's not. These two loud-mouths are **Anna Papadakos** and **Carlo Alacchi**, the dummies of the **Dummies Theatre Company.** The company is no stranger to the Main, premiering **Dummies'95** after last year's **Return of the Dummies** and the company's1993's launch of **Dummies In The Window**, all of which were produced in various abandoned St. Laurent stores.

It is these historical old spaces that are the premise for the company's. Not only is this company able to provide a theatre venue in the heart of the city, but it also offers a little history lesson on each of the spaces it takes over.

"We started getting together in January," explains Papadakos, in reference to the company's work on Dummies'95. "We started forming ideas, making lots of notes. We talked a lot, but after a while we still hadn't gotten the script written. Then we got the space, and it seemed to shape everything."

It is the stores themselves that have always played the biggest role in the company's productions. Papadakos, along with Alacchi and the multi-talented **Pascal Maeder**, formed the company in 1992. She explains the passion for her multi-media, experimental storefront-theatre: "I was born very close to St-Laurent. After travelling all over the place, coming back to Montréal and putting on these shows is like getting back to my roots."

While she succeeds in getting back to her roots, Papadakos also succeeds in establishing the roots of the Main's multi-cultural community, where the company has found a lot of support and encouragement in their hard work.

As for their latest venture, Dummies'95 is a new step for the company, and the work is both cleaner and more focused as a result.

After the performers have invited you into the space, be prepared to walk right through the set to take your seat in the bleachers at the back. As you turn around, don't expect the performers to begin - they already have. Before, during and after the show *inside* , the performers also make great use of the windows and the *outside*, where pedestrians looking in end up easily becoming just as involved.

Using a messy relationship as the main focus in the play, it is this audience interaction that gives the play its brilliance. While the characters flit about their stage offering deconstructionalized text and the history behind Fox shoes, Maeder's terrific film and video images expose the characters depths. All over the room, we are able to see a reflection of ourselves within the character's messy lives. More importantly, by watching the audience on the street who are suddenly pulled into the play out of curiosity, we are *truly* able to see ourselves.

"The games that go on between the two lovers are personal and historical," explains Papadakos. "Neither character faces themselves or each other." Papadakos adds that this may not be too far removed from society in general.

While watching the "dummies" in their relationship, we can see why. The whole piece is filled with the tedious, often-hysterical head games people often play with each other, and it's easy to laugh your way through the whole thing.

Yet, after watching the characters in all their zany antics, the play swoops down and takes on the dark, serious undertones of desire and abuse, never letting you know when it's going to end.

"I like juxtaposing,"says Papadakos, "having a moment of darkness right up against the moment in the light. I like to give the audience a jolting feeling. Why define what life's all about, when the next moment, anything can happen? We're *humans."*

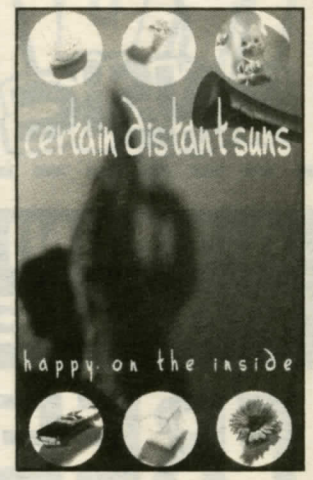
Humans, or dummies? We're not quite sure. What we do know for sure is that the third entry of Dummies Theatre Co. is sure to open the doors to many more storefronts, and with a month's worth of free shows, it's the best ticket on the block.

Dummies '95 continues Wednesday - Sunday at 4449 Boulevard St-Laurent (corner of Mont Royal),until April 30th. Showtime 8:45 PM. Call 284-3548 for more info.

SSSPINNSS

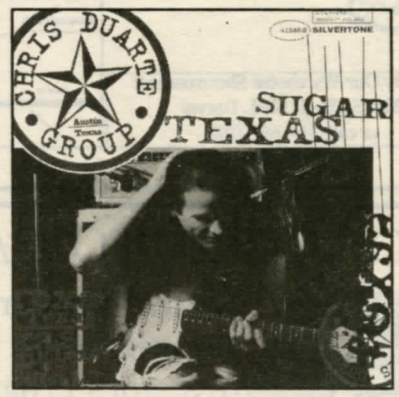
by Andrew Elkin

Certain Distant Suns
Happy On the Inside
Giant



This full-length debut is hardly better than disgraceful. In their attempt to meld the trance/house phenomenon with the psych-rock format, **Suns** discard any integrity they might have had. Try to imagine **Smashing Pumpkins'** dance mixes.

The U.S. turns out about a zillion new bands each year, and this is one that makes you wonder if Cracker Jax boxes are giving away contracts.



Chris Duarte Group
Texas Sugar Strat Magik
Silvertone

It seems like **Duarte** could have a lot of fun all alone

'cause some of the tunes here are six straight minutes of 'improvisation'. Apparently he was a big **Stevie Ray Vaughan** Fan—he sure sounds just like him! I guess he's good from a technical standpoint, but he's just *soooo* boring. Come on, brother! The blues have got to have some spice. This stuff is plain like bread 'n' butter.

Grant McLennan
Horsebreaker Star
Beggar's Banquet

An Australian folkie goes to America to make a record. Again. The second full-length from **Grant McLennan** is a big production for him. Recorded in **R.E.M**'s hometown of Athens, Georgia, it uses the crooning expertise of Okie-vamp **Syd Straw** on backing vocals and is produced by the guy who made the film *Athens Inside Out.*

Highlights include the Dylan-esque *What Went Wrong*, *From My Lips, Keep My Word* and the title track.

Of the 18 compositions on this album, the best ones happened out of bare, honest acoustica.

It is good to see a record with stronger lyrical, not musical references, such as the obvious **Dylan** and **Cohen** influence. The result is intelligent and accessible.

Thrill Squad
It's Party Time!
Ape No Kill Ape

It's a shame to have to say this about a Canadian band—or is it?

If they aren't smart enough to tell a good sound from a bad one, then that's their problem. More precisely, Thrill Squad's problem is their singer. To my knowledge, a vocalist is supposed to have a good voice or at least a unique one-but everyone tells me things are different in Vancouver.

Thrill Squad should take a sabbatical or something, because alternative rock is just too common for this to pass as acceptable.

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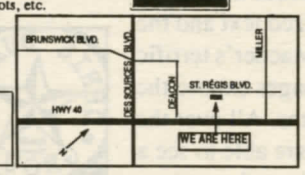

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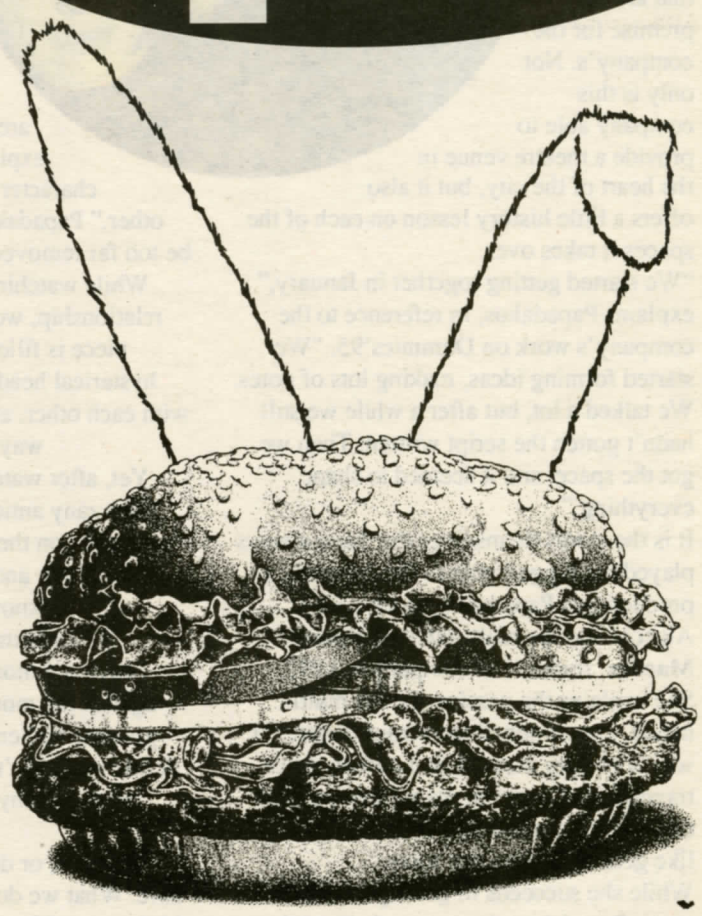

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Capital punishment: a racist policy

by Shira Katz

Mumia Abu-Jamal sits in an American jail cell no larger than a bathroom 23 hours a day. Soon he may find himself in the electric chair. But Abu-Jamal claims he is innocent.

Although the death penalty has been included as a provision in the Pennsylvania legal system for the past 20 years, this is the first year that death warrants are actually being signed. Mumia Abu-Jamal, a political prisoner who claims that racial discrimination has kept him behind bars since 1982, may be the next person on the list. Mumia's attorney, Leonard Weinglass, fears that the death warrant will be signed within the next four weeks.

"We see this case as being indicative of racial discrimination in the use of the death penalty," said Mark Warren, the USA coordinator of the Canadian section of Amnesty International.

"Numerous studies of the US death penalty have revealed that non-white individuals are seven times more likely to receive the death penalty."

Alleged racial discrimination

Abu-Jamal became a political activist at the age of 14. As a journalist later in life, he was often targeted by the cops because he said on WDA radio in Philadelphia that they treated minorities unfairly. He also wrote about black, poor, and working people for the Black Panther Party Paper in the 1970s. He is an award-winning journalist and a founding member of the Philadelphia chapter of the Black Panther Party.

Abu-Jamal was convicted of the 1982 shooting of a Philadelphia police officer, Daniel Faulkner. But he says he is innocent, and that there were several major inconsistencies in key prosecution testimony, including the exclusion of African Americans from the jury.

"They alloted him a lawyer, Tony Jackson, who was disbarred in a later case for incompetency," said Paul Cooperstein of the Partisan Defence Committee, a legal and social defence organization associated with the Sparticist League.

Abu-Jamal was then denied his request to represent himself or to have John Africa, founder of a political organization called MOVE, represent him. He was sentenced to death.

Leonard Weinglass, Abu-Jamal's lead counsel, noted that the judge who presided over Mumia's trial, Albert Sabo, sent more people to death row than any other sitting judge in the United States. Judge Sabo had Abu-Jamal removed from the court so that he was not able to attend most of his own trial.

On January 13, 1995, Abu-Jamal was moved from Huntingdon prison in Philadelphia to Pennsylvania's new supermaximum security prison in remote Greene County because he refused to cut his dreadlocks. The eight-hour drive from Pennsylvania to Greene makes it very difficult for lawyers and family to visit. The area is well-known for its racism and heavy infestation of Ku Klux Klan.

He is only allowed out of his cell 4 to 5 hours a week into an exercise cage, and is only allowed infrequent non-contact visits with their handcuffs shackled to a belt around the waist.

He can only shower twice a week and use the law library two hours a week.

Elected on a platform of murder

There are over 140 prisoners on death row in Pennsylvania, whose appeals have run out and who may be executed very shortly. When Thomas Ridge was elected governor of Pennsylvania last November, he campaigned on a platform of increasing the number of executions and death sentences in Pennsylvania. His promise was to sign 100 death warrants in his first year in office. Bowing to public pressure, he has already signed five death warrants since January 17, and three men are already waiting to be executed.

The state's first execution in 30 years is set for next month.

Warren of Amnesty International said that because prosecutors are elected officials, they may make decisions based on the fact that they want to be re-elected.

"Crime is a very big issue in the U.S. They see the death penalty as a solution to all crime and people are using it for platforms to get elected," said Warren.

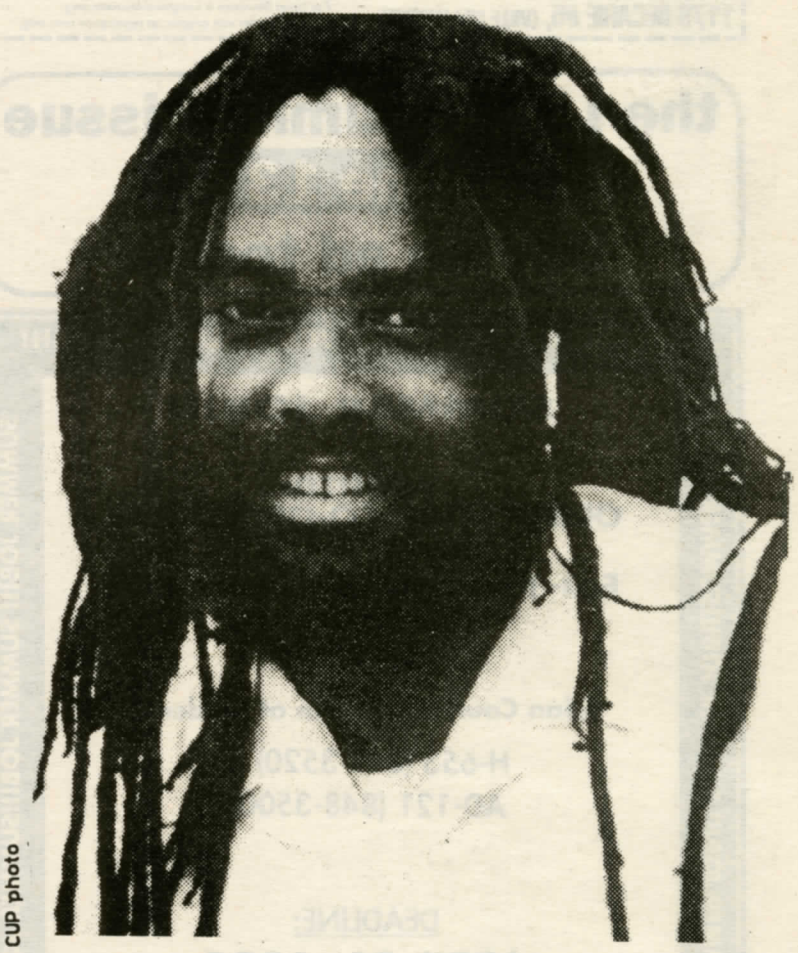
Warren added that the death penalty preys on people who are the most vulnerable members of society. For example, 90 per cent of all death row inmates in the USA were too poor to afford their own attorney. He said that juries and prosecutors are more likely to convict if the defendant is a non-white.

"I think it's inevitable that the justice system will reflect the biases of the society it represents," Warren said.

"For identical crimes, there's a far greater chance that a non-white defendant will receive the ultimate punishment. Members of racial minorities are more likely to be sentenced to death," said Warren.

Paul Cooperstein of the Partisan Defence Committee identifies Abu-Jamal as being a victim of this type of discrimination.

"We believe that the case of Abu-Jamal represents everything that is wrong about the death penalty. He's on death row because he is black and because he is a political opponent of the racist-capitalist US government," he said.



CUP photo

Book publication hinders Abu-Jamal

Pennsylvania representative Michael McGeehan has called for Abu-Jamal's immediate execution because he has published a new book of essays.

Titled "Live From Death Row," the 200-page volume includes a collection of essays on prison life and political life outside of prison. It is published by Addison-Wesley, and features writers such as Alice Walker, E.L. Doctorow, and civil rights attorney William Kuntsler. The book will be available in bookstores before May.

Following Addison-Wesley's announcement to go ahead with publication plans, The Philadelphia Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) and right-wing state legislators are calling for a boycott of the publisher. They also plan to seize the $30,000 payment for the book and take disciplinary action against Jamal.

Last May, National Public Radio cancelled a series of broadcasts featuring Abu-Jamal in retrospective. FOP played a major role in pressuring the public channel to drop Abu Jamal from its schedule.

Protests around the world

If Abu Jamal's death warrant is signed, emergency demonstrations will be held the next day in New York City and elsewhere

Worldwide rallies for Jamal have already taken place in Europe, the United States, Canada, Mexico, Japan and Australia. Participants included death penalty opponents, trade unionists, anti-racist activists and students.

On March 18, 75 supporters of Jamal demonstrated outside the U.S. consulate in Montreal. More than $1,800 was raised for Jamal's legal defense at rallies in Toronto and Vancouver.

Two years ago, the Committee to Save Abu-Jamal, which raises money for his legal defence, was formed. Co-chairmen of the committee include actors Ossie Davis and Mike Farrell.

Advisors on the Committee include Whoopi Goldberg and Harry Belafonte.

All money being raised through these rallies and forums organized by the Partisan Defence Committee goes directly to Jamal's legal defense. Since February 9, over $14,000 has been collected or pledged.

Paul Cooperstein of the Partisan Defense Committee encourages everyone to join in the fight to get Abu-Jamal off death row.

"We believe that everyone who is opposed to the racist death penalty and are fighters against racist oppression should join in the struggle by helping to mobilize their unions, community organizations and student organizations to demand that Abu-Jamal not be executed."

For information on how you can join the campaign to save Mumia Abu-Jamal, contact the Partisan Defense Committee, Box 314, Station B, Toronto, Ontario, M5T-2W1, or call (416) 593-4138.

For identical crimes, there's a far greater chance that a non-white defendant will receive the ultimate punishment. Members of racial minorities are more likely to be sentenced to death

the Link **staff meeting** is ***NOT***, I repeat, is ***NOT*** on Friday. It is on **Thursday** April 13, 1995.

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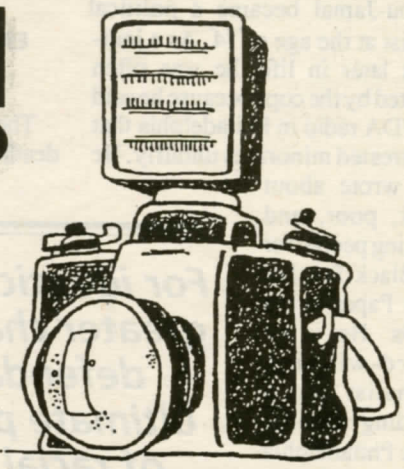

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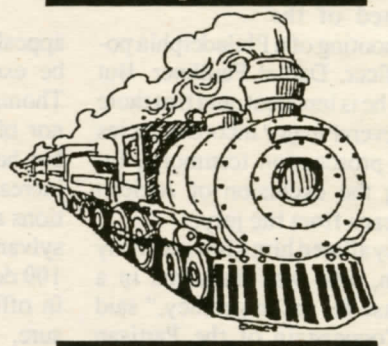

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Female eroticism on the rise

by Sylvie Ouellette

When the publishers of Britain's *Black Lace* collection launched their new series of erotic fiction in July 1993, their guidelines to potential writers were very clear and self-explanatory: "We don't want stories about bored housewives getting off with their window cleaner."

Black Lace was a first in the United Kingdom, and possibly in the world: erotic novels written by women for women. Steamy mass market paperbacks that would hopefully find their niche in the popular fiction market.

What set *Black Lace* apart from the rest was this new label of erotic fiction aimed at a female readership. The publishers also knew that having the books written solely by women would put them in a class of their own.

Sixteen months later and over one million copies sold, *Black Lace* is now a household name in the UK.

Other British publishers have also jumped on the bandwagon and launched their own similar collections. But it may be too late to catch up with *Black Lace*, which now has 30 titles in print and releases two new books every month.

Although *Black Lace* books were also available in Canada from the start (and in all Commonwealth countries), the publishers recently decided to tackle the American market and re-launched the collection in North America.

Too risqué for Americans

Will Black Lace succeed in seducing North American women?

There is no doubt many women like to read about sex; perhaps even more than men who tend to be more visual and prefer looking at sexy photos.

But many women might consider *Black Lace* to be a little too extreme for their taste. Several of the books include detailed description of bondage and sadomasochism, something that is still frowned upon on this side of the ocean.

Nevertheless, it's all done in good taste. The guidelines for potential writers (a document of about a dozen pages) clearly state the participants must always be willing to partake in any sort of kinky jinks. If the heroine gets tied up and spanked, it's because she wants to. She must be always be given the opportunity to refuse.

In most of the books it's more often the men who get tied up and whipped, anyway.

In this respect, the tables have been turned on men and their paper fantasies: *Black Lace* has no time for the demure sex kitten who goes to the garage to have her carburetor checked and ends up on her back with three well-endowed mechanics on top of her three paragraphs later.

Black Lace is escapist fantasy; not unsound, not flowery and romantic, but on the whole quite farfetched. These aren't love stories with a few steamy encounters thrown in. It's all about lust, unbridled and wild.

Women on top

The books bear little resemblance to the works of Anais Nin or D.H. Lawrence. They are more to the new steamy line of *Harlequin* romances but, of course, with much more sex.

The stories often revolve around pirates, harems, dungeons, secret societies devoted solely to the pursuit of physical. Or high-flying female executives taking revenge on the men who would otherwise try to impose their rules.

It's women on top, whichever way you look at it.

Anything goes, as long as it doesn't include sex with animals or children; practices that may cause bloodshed, permanent physical or mental trauma; or incest.

The beauty of the books is that they work as a story and include a coherent plot and character development. Even if all the sex scenes were removed, it would all still hold together- although the book would then be reduced from the average 250 pages to about 100.

These sex scenes are numerous and varied, descriptive and detailed. Although some authors use euphemisms such as "her little kernel of joy" or "her tiny bud of delight" instead of calling a clitoris by its anatomically-correct name, others tend to make use of a wide vocabulary that is direct yet never crude.

Lengthy descriptions

There lies the difference between erotica for men versus erotica for women: in *Black Lace* it's not sufficient to simply describe what is going on.

> *Therefore, the usual "He pulled his pants down, took his iron-hard rod out and shoved it into her dripping cunt" becomes "She felt her skin grow hot and she gasped as he lay upon her. Something trembled deep within her abdomen when he began covering her breasts with light kisses. His throbbing phallus glided inside her moist flesh and she sighed." or something to that effect.*

There must be detailed references to what the heroine is wearing, what she likes and dislikes, etc. Most important, the readers must be at all times kept informed of what she is feeling.

Therefore, the usual *"He pulled his pants down, took his iron-hard rod out and shoved it into her dripping c—"* becomes *"She felt her skin grow hot and she gasped as he lay upon her. Something trembled deep within her abdomen when he began covering her breasts with light kisses. His throbbing phallus glided inside her moist flesh and she sighed."* or something to that effect.

What can be said in one sentence in a male "stories" magazine could perhaps take up to two pages of a *Black Lace* book. Some orgasms are sustained over several paragraphs (we're talking of the woman's orgasms, of course).

There is nothing wrong with that, but then the question of storyline and setting arises.

Most of what can be found on the Canadian market right now wouldn't work in *Back Lace*. It would be considered "too right on and wholesome".

There needs to be some kind of twist to the plot, something to make the story a fantasy. This is where the warning against "bored housewife getting off with the window cleaner" comes into consideration.

The heroine can be your typical girl-next-door, but will find herself in an unusual situation. She may be going on an archeological dig, or shipwrecked on remote exotic island populated by a "sexually welcoming" primitive tribe, for instance.

Historical settings are very popular, covering every period from the Roman antiquity to the year 2200, via the French Revolution and the Wild West.

Few attacks from feminists

Despite *Black Lace*'s success, reviews in the British press have not all been favorable. Many critics (especially men) have complained that "it's still smut, whichever way you look at it" and that the storylines are just an "excuse to get laid as often as possible". Many women have complained that the stories are too farfetched or not credible enough.

However, there have been very few attacks from feminists or anti-pornography groups. This could perhaps be justified by the fact that it would be difficult to claim women are being exploited by men.

In *Black Lace*, it's almost always the other way around.

It's about women knowing what they want- namely sexual fulfillment- and not being afraid of asking for it.

The books are not only on sale in sexshops but in every major bookstore in the UK, and are selling very well.

The covers are enticing yet not revealing, looking like any other mass market paperback.

In Montreal, *Black Lace* books are on sale at Coles, priced $6.99 and can be found at the beginning of the fiction section. Only time will tell whether they suit the tastes of Canadian women.

sea urchin

on the kitchen table
a poppy seed from a bagel
the last piece of harriet
i've seen for days

closer now
& tofino, long beach stretch
to the peripheral-

night here is a blue
like a hesitant flame
    a billion pinpoints
of light tread water

cool whisper of a small stone
cold as ocean
    under a barefoot
while she watches the pacific
somewhere close

the stone inscribed
with strands of brine
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quiet & listen:
the in inside
the sound comes not from throat or ribcage
but belly
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absence, food, motion
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now push

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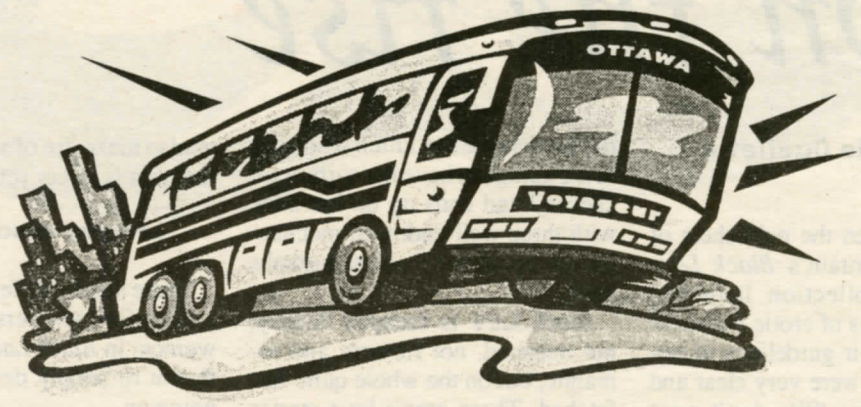

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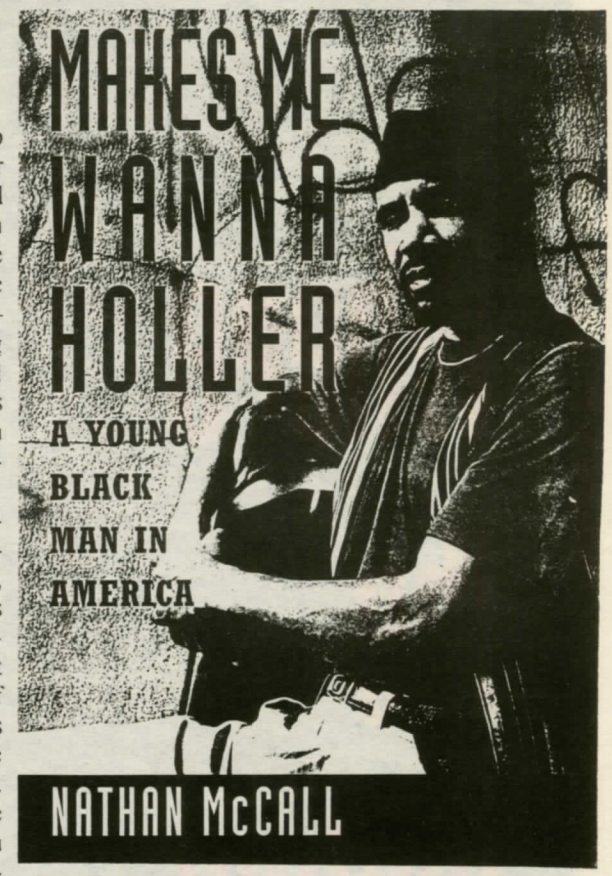


by Danny Chan

Blacks youths see a white riding a bike and beat him senseless because of his skin colour.

"THIS is for G.P.—General Principle— just 'cause you white...."thinks one attacker as he mercilessly stomps his foot on the bloodied young white.

The angry young black assailant is Nathan McCall. In his autobiography, ***Makes Me Wanna Holler: A Young Black Man In America***, the frustration and rage of being black in a white-controlled nation are chronicled. ***Makes Me Wanna Holler*** is a collection of 44 vignettes about McCall's everyday dealings in America. He writes about his embittered youth in a white-controlled system, and how he opted to join the seamier world of drug dealing and breaking and entering in his hometown of Portsmouth, Virginia.

McCall traces his emerging resentment towards all whites. He chronicles how his stepfather worked as a gardener for a wealthy white family, a scene that he likens to "downtrodden sharecroppers and field slaves" being supervised by plantation-owning white slaveowners.

His abhorrence of the white bourgeois escalates when he gravitates towards street gangs—a counterculture operating outside of the white Establishment.

The fast lane eventually lands McCall a twelve-year jail sentence while attempting to rob a McDonald's. McCall serves three years in prison, a place that he wryly notes is "the one place in America that black men rule."

His growth from just another jaded black inmate in the prison system to a disciplined, responsible man while in jail is fascinating. The cutthroat atmosphere in the prison system includes the fear of gang rape. Daily survival is a real concern. But McCall encounters several black mentors in prison who introduce him to Islam and black history.

McCall's metamorphosis in prison results in his complete turnaround outside. He returns to university, earns a journalism degree and finds work with several dailies, including *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* and *The Washington Post.*

His transformation from an all-discriminating hatemonger to his eventual tolerance of whites is fascinating. McCall narrates his personal growth and the realization that he can change his life. In Atlanta, he sees whites and blacks working together and this diminishes his bigotry.

Makes Me Wanna Holler also offers McCall's theories about blacks and the entire racism issue in the United States. Some are slightly off-centre (the Deep South is racist because they lost the Civil War to the Yankees so their oppression towards blacks makes them feel superior) while others are valid. For instance, McCall says racism is still prevalent in white-collar workplaces. At *The Washington Post*, bigotry still exists and the office is divided by "cliques" between black and white journalists. Particularly jarring is how blacks and whites in today's workplace are still judged by a double standard. "White men can throw tantrums in the workplace...and they're excused as "eccentric." But the second a brother [a black man] shows some aggression, he's got a chip on his shoulder. He's *got* to go," McCall writes.

The reading is powerful. McCall never sugarcoats the concerns that afflict America's blacks. He lays part of the blame squarely on black men who abandon their children and deprive them of a male role model to guide their lives—something that McCall himself is guilty of with his own children.

Well-written and entertaining, McCall's book is a testimony about the state of America's black-white relations. While some passages, such his relationships with women, are comparatively irrevelant, the book is still an incisive portrait of growing up black.

Nathan McCall ends ***Makes Me Wanna Holler*** with the vignette "Choices." He recounts his fear about what lies ahead for today's black youths: youths who are more angry, more violent, and more frustrated than ever before. He expresses dismay over the lack of choices available for the new black generation.

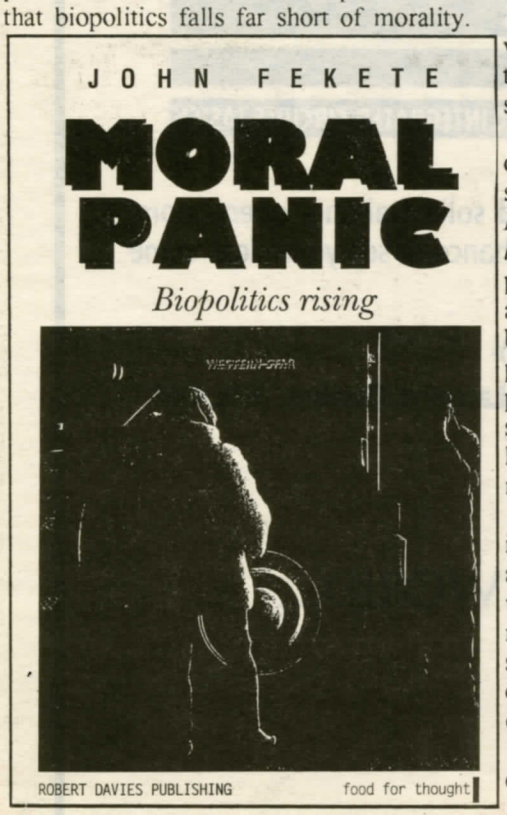
Makes Me Wanna Holler
Nathan McCall
Random House
$16.95

Breaking ranks with biopolitics

by Shira Katz

Using popular buzzwords such as "political correctness" and "sexual-harassment" on the back cover, research professor John Fekete's ***Moral Panic: Biopolitics Rising*** deals with a timely subject. Fekete gives a detailed account of his own perception of "biopolitics", described as the fundamental aspects of feminism in Canadian culture. Statistics about violence against women and equity legislation are put into question.

He sums up his book using post-modern language in the first three opening sentences: "This book is about biopolitics and moral panic. It is written out of the deep conviction that biopolitics falls far short of morality.



Politics has historically begun where biological factors and the demands of the body give way to the common concerns of a cultural community, a body politic."

Come again?

By the time I got to chapter three, I finally began to have a semi-understanding of what Fekete was discussing. Fekete tries to raise an intellectual debate and a case against new social movements which he claims are based on feminism and political correctness. He argues that these movements have been dominating our culture since the Marc Lépine incident, in the early 90's. He argues that statistics created by women are skewed to fit their "feminist" agenda.

He writes that "zero tolerance" against violence is a regressive policy, even though these rules have been created to stop regressive politics.

In chapter four, Fekete critiques statistics on violence against women in a 1993 CanPan study, entitled *Changing the Landscape, the Final Report of the Canadian Panel on Violence Against Women.* He argues that the procedures involved in generating statistics are often faulty and that statistics should not be used to make generalizations about larger populations. He gives many lengthy examples of "faulty" statistics, collected from a small population of people with the results leading to generalizations about the total Canadian population.

"Survey research is not even close to solving the problem of its evidence, and its data are uncontrollably corrupted by respondents who misunderstand the questions, have faulty memories, unconsciously or consciously censor the information and provide half-truths, or answer carelessly, mischievously, or deceitfully."

He argues that when women are the perpetrators of violence, it is often ignored in these studies.

Fekete then argues about the "dangers" of feminism when it becomes "biofeminism." He uses complicated terms, trying to give proof that by separating genders, feminism is taking over every aspect of society. He tries to equate "biofeminism" with propaganda. He argues that the sensitivity of feminists can lead to censorship. He writes that this limitation to freedom of expression is a step backwards.

Fekete later critiques the sexual harassment policies of some Canadian universities.

"Sexual and racial harassment complaints are prosecuted under university policies as though they were all crimes of hate and violence."

He might be trivializing sexual harassment when he insinuates that it cannot be taken seriously: "It is about biopolitics, pure and simple."

He then complains how "unfair" sexual harassment policies are. He does this by giving examples of professors who were falsely accused of sexual harassment. He complains that the policies are unfair because they can ruin the reputation of a "tenured" professor. Poor baby.

He argues that the way of the law is equal to McCarthyism or a witch-hunt because professors can be found guilty upon accusation. He gives a well researched account of specific professors and their dealings with sexual harassment policies. He also alludes to professors whose reputations have been damaged by any kind of accusation. He makes a point there is a need for a stronger-defined law for the accusers.

In his last chapter, Fekete summarizes his book by arguing that researchers are encouraged to skew results because of their "biopolitical" or "biofeminist" agenda.

"The first rule of confronting biofeminist rhetoric is to scrutinize the definitions; the second rule is to challenge their totalizing character."

He even equates feminist fundamentalism with Nazism: "The race-thinking of the Nazis, and the class-thinking of the Stalinists and Maoists, earlier in this century, both stigmatized and set about morally (and to an inconceivable extent, physically) to annihilate the race scapegoat (the racially "inferior") and the class scapegoat (the class "alien"). The biofeminist lens of the panel and its government sponsors would drag us into a third episode of aggravated, collective insanity."

Although Fekete's book is very well researched, he admits that his ideas are controversial. He argues that freedom of expression may be limited when people worry about how they speak about women.

"In biopolitical discourse, freedom of expression and due process, two towering achievements of liberal democracy, become, simply, threats to women's safety."

The book is extremely difficult to read because it sometimes takes Fekete over twenty pages of detailed case or numerical descriptions before he gets to his point. His sentences are extremely lengthy, some of them longer than paragraphs. I wondered if what appears to be a total lack of editing was intentional so that he wouldn't have to self-"censor" his own material.

The book is hard to follow. Fekete jumps quickly from one topic to the next. Could it be that if his argument was simplified, too many people would disagree with him? Or is it truly something that is so complicated there is no way to simplify the issues in a language anybody can understand? One wonders if Fekete does indeed have a valid point if it cannot be explained in simple English.

Moral Panic: Biopolitics Rising
John Fekete
Robert Davies Publishing
$21.99

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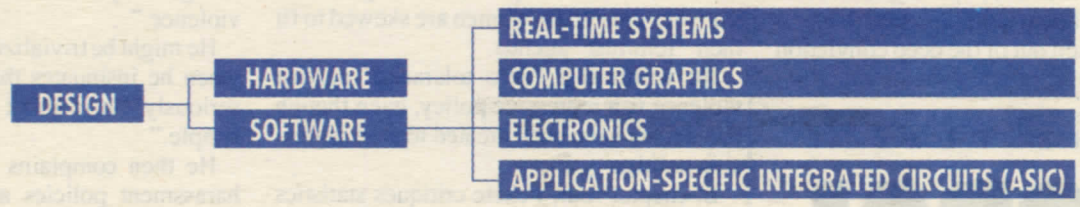

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Year in Review
Part II

Concordia again set their claim to being the number one women's university hockey team in North America this year.

Not only did they dominate their exhibition matches throughout the season and post an incredible record, they also were most unfriendly hosts at the annual Theresa Humes hockey tournament.

the 3 day tournament, held the first weekend in February, saw Concordia destroy their competition. The Stingers won their three games, outscoring their opponents 28-4. And this was against other so-called premiere teams.

After the tournament, Les Lawton was modest in victory. "I didn't think we would dominate as much as we did," said Lawton. "We played with a lot of depth, we were a lot stronger than the other teams, we showed more emotion."

Cammi Granato was chosen tournament MVP and Kellie Rae Ryan, Michelle Johansson and Nancy Deschamps were named to the tournament all-star team.

Volleyball

In what will go down largely as a season to forget, the Stingers had a year where nothing seemed to want to go their way.

Finishing their regular season winless in 12, the Stingers never found the chemistry that they were seeking.

The highlight of the season came in late January when they captured the bronze at the Ottawa Invitational Tournament. Cassie Bardo, in her final season with the team, was named to the tournament all-star team.

For the third straight year, Concordia's women's rugby team won the QSSF championships.

The province's best university rugby team won the provincial crown with an easy 18-5 victory over McGill in the finals. It was their third straight finals match-up against their cross-town rivals.

The team has now gone undefeated in their last four seasons, under the leadership of coaches Tom Ingerman and Chris Reginbal. That makes 33 straight without a loss.

"In the past we depended on superstars and less on playing as a team," said Laura Morrison after the championship match. "This year, we were strong at every position, and we brought it all together for the final."

On the men's side, the Stingers lost in the semi-finals to McGill. They ended their season with a record of 3-5.

Track

The young team is in the building process. The season, which ended with an open meet at l'Université de Montréal on March 5, saw both the men and women showing promise.

Head coach Susan Ballmer said after the meet that the teams were improving. She is now actively recruiting and has her current staff working out at a relaxed pace until the fall.

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS AWARDS
AWARDED APRIL 6, 1995

Athletes of the year - Emerson Thomas, basketball and Cammi Granato, hockey

Fittest male athlete - Mark Montreuil, football

Fittest female athlete - Karen Bye, hockey

Male athlete of the year - Jason Della Rocca, wrestling and rugby

Female athlete of the year - Tanya Van Blokland, soccer

Leadership, dedication and excellence - Luc Pelland, football and Laura Morrison, rugby

Male rookie of the year - Christian Dutil, hockey

Female rookie of the year - Kari Colpitts, hockey

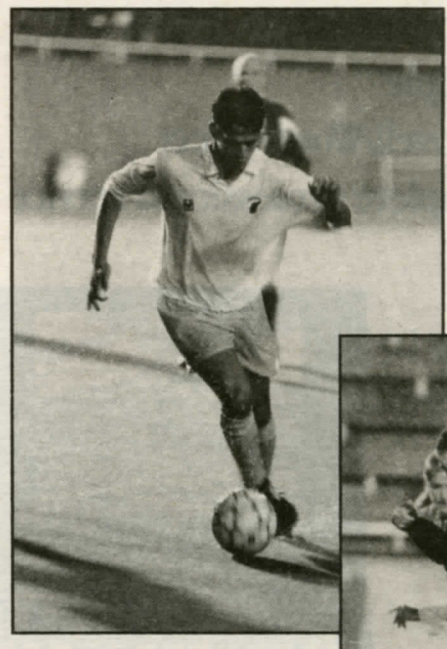
Media award - Terry Haig

Outstanding contributions - Donna Dalton and Doug Glazer

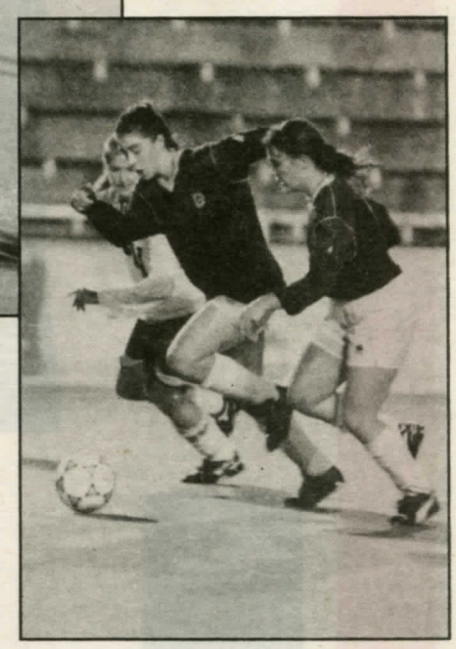
Merit awards - Cassandra Bardo, volleyball; Martine Bérubé, hockey; Martin Laperrière, skiing; Daniel Peard, hockey; Gaetan Prosper, basketball; Leigh Jason Quilliams, skiing; Jean Pierre Reimer, basketball; and Sharon Sandy, basketball.

On the men's side, the Stingers ended the season at 3-4-3 and out of the playoffs this year. It marked the first time in six years that they had failed to qualify for the post-season.

The season saw coach Pat Harrington leave the team early due to his responsibilities with the Montreal Impact, who did manage to make the playoffs. Harrington was replaced by Grant Needham late in the season.



The women's team, which finished a disappointing 1-4-3 in the regular season, played stronger in the playoffs. The Stingers tied national second-seed in their best of two playoffs. Unfortunately, goals scored on the road in the playoffs are used as the tie-breaker, allowing McGill to advance.



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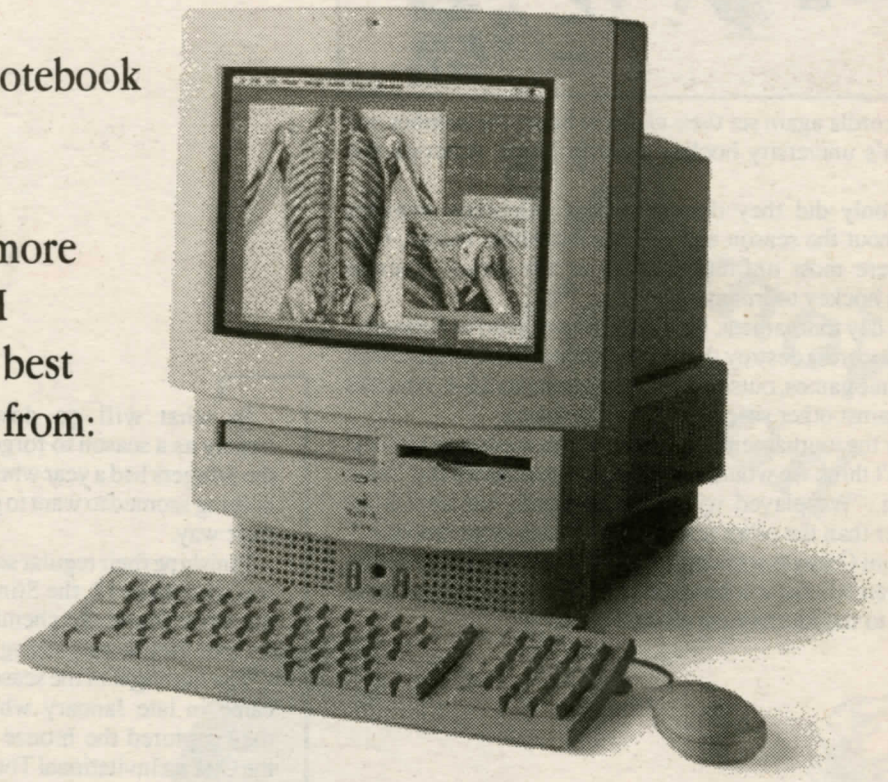

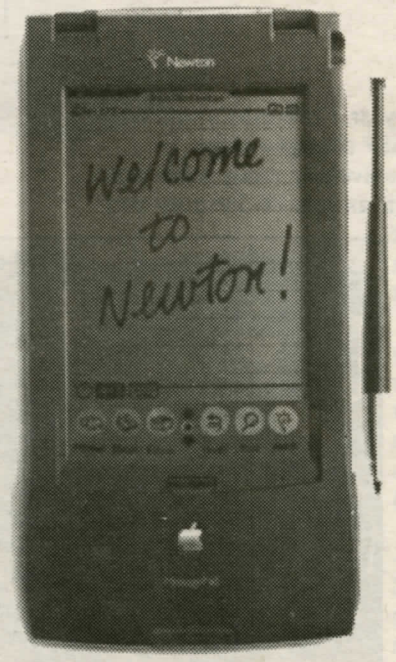

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